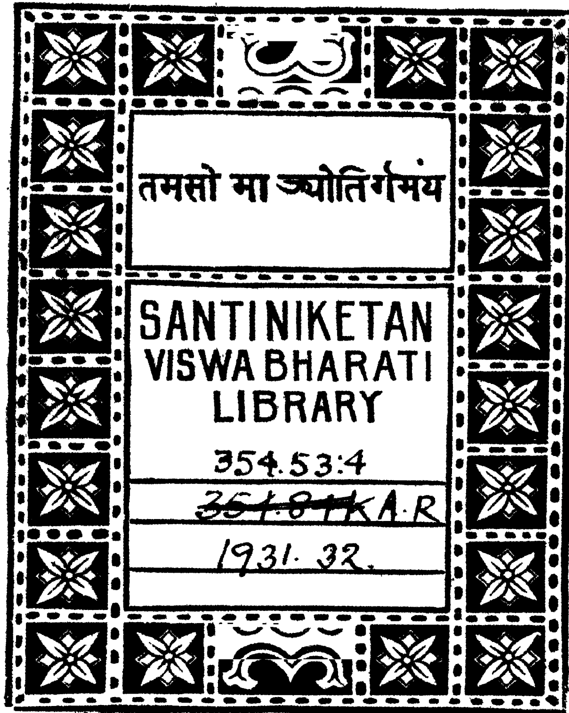


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Government of Bengal

Revenue Department

Report on the Administration of Bengal 1931-32

Calcutta
Bengal Secretariat Book Depot
1933

Published by the Bengal Secretariat Book Depot,
Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.

Agents in India.

Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Printers and Booksellers, College Street, Calcutta.
Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.

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CONTENTS.

Part I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Part II.

CHAPTER I.—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

CHAPTER II.—TRIBUTARY STATES.

CHAPTER III.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CHAPTER IV.—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CHAPTER V.—POLICE, JUSTICE, JAILS AND REGISTRATION.

CHAPTER VI.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

CHAPTER VII.—PRODUCTION OF THE LAND AND CO-OPERATION.

CHAPTER VIII.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

CHAPTER IX.—PUBLIC WORKS AND IRRIGATION.

Chapter X.—Revenue and Finance.

Chapter XI.—Public Health and Medical Relief.

Chapter XII.—Education.

Chapter XIII.—Miscellaneous.

Bengal Administration Report, 1931-32.

Part I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Political Review.

The main object of the Delhi settlement of 5th March 1931 had been achieved when Congress decided to take part in the further discussions of the Round Table Conference, and Mr. Gandhi sailed for England to attend the Conference. While Government, however, scrupulously observed their side of the agreement, Congress seized the opportunity to consolidate their position and to make preparations for a fresh attack on constituted authority. A movement for the non-payment of rent was launched in the United Provinces, an agitation of a frankly revolutionary nature was set on foot in the North-West Frontier Province, and Bengal followed suit when at the Bengal Provincial Congress Conference held at Berhampore in the first week of December a resolution was passed urging the people of Bengal to prepare for the coming fight and to institute an immediate boycott of British goods and British concerns. Such threats could not be ignored and the Government of India made the necessary preparations to meet them. **Introductory.**

2. On his return from England Mr. Gandhi sent a telegram on the 29th December 1931 to His Excellency the Viceroy in which he asked if the promulgation of the Ordinances—he was referring to Ordinances which had been issued to deal with the situation on the Frontier and in the United Provinces and Bengal—was to be taken as an indication that friendly relations between Government and Congress had come to an end. The Viceroy replied justifying his action and informing Mr. Gandhi that there could be no discussion of those measures and that they would remain in force until they had served the purpose for which they had been adopted. On the 1st January 1932 Mr. Gandhi **Revival of civil disobedience.**

announced that he had decided to be guided by the Congress Working Committee which had passed a resolution favouring a reversion to civil disobedience. The resolution had demanded "adequate relief" in respect of the Ordinances, free scope in any future negotiations and consultations to prosecute the Congress claim to complete independence and the carrying on of the administration of the country "in consultation with popular representatives pending the attainment of such independence."

3. There was only one possible answer to these demands and that was given in the Ordinances Nos. II—V promulgated on 4th January 1932, the Emergency Powers Ordinance, the Unlawful Instigation Ordinance, the Unlawful Association Ordinance and the Prevention of Molestation and Boycotting Ordinance. In the Statement which accompanied their issue the Government of India reviewed the march of Congress along the "barren road of non-co-operation" since December 1929 and showed how in using their full resources to meet the challenge of civil disobedience they were fighting the battle not only of the present Government but of the Governments of the future. Parliament was pledged to a scheme of constitutional reform which had been accepted as reasonable by the great majority of the delegates to the Round Table Conference and had given an undertaking that every effort would be made to overcome as quickly as possible the difficulties in the way of its early attainment. At such a juncture the Government of India could not permit any outside political organisation to usurp their functions and they were bound to take every step that was necessary to suppress a lawless movement which would hinder the work of political advance.

4. The drive against civil disobedience began forthwith. On the 4th January Mr. Gandhi was arrested and in Bengal the more active and dangerous leaders of the movement were imprisoned. Various local associations whose object was to encourage or participate in illegal activities were declared unlawful, while the places in their occupation were seized by Government under the Ordinance. The policy was one of rapid and vigorous action. Any breaches of the law or defiance of authority were met by immediate arrest and prosecution and the whole resources of Government were thrown in against civil disobedience from the outset.

Immediate effect of the Ordinances.

5. Responsible members of the community were not long in realising that Government were resolved to maintain law and order at all costs and to afford adequate protection to the law-abiding against the intimidation of the agents of Congress. Those who were wavering in their allegiance therefore took heart and openly declared themselves to be on the side of Government.

Congress on the other hand was staggered by the swiftness and decision with which it was attacked. Bereft of leadership by the incarceration of personalities such as Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Vallabhai Patel and Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta and deprived one after another of those who succeeded them, the movement suffered from lack of co-ordination from the start and was never allowed to become the menace it was in 1930 and 1931. The following is a description month by month of the course of civil disobedience during 1932.

6. The "dictators" and others who continued the struggle made a great effort to incite the public to participate in the celebration of "independence day" on the 26th January in the hope that this would lead to clashes between the demonstrators and the police. In Calcutta, however, that expectation was frustrated by the closing of the public parks so that no meeting of any size was held and no serious disturbance ensued. In the mufassal the few meetings which were held attracted scant attention and the large and hostile crowds which used to be a feature of such demonstrations in the past were conspicuous by their absence. The hartal, however, which was organised in Calcutta on the 29th January to celebrate "Peshawar Day" on a large scale was fairly effective. In the districts attempts were made to maintain interest through wandering parties of volunteers. These did not remain long in any one place, and even at this early stage the confiscation of Congress funds was beginning to affect the supply of those patriots who required to be remunerated for their services as "volunteers." **January.**

7. In February, as the result presumably of orders issued by the All-India Congress Committee, organised attempts, seldom successful, were made to hoist the Congress flag on Government buildings in the mufassal. An increasing share of the work was taken by women both because it was becoming more difficult to find male recruits and because the presence of womenfolk was calculated to prove an embarrassment to the police. The quality of the male picketers was noticeably poor, hired as they were for a few annas from amongst young students, schoolboys and the unemployed. Advantage was taken of trouble between the staff and the students of the Bethune College for girls in Calcutta to attempt to engineer a sympathetic strike among the student body in general, but the time for examinations was imminent and this met with little response. Pressure was also brought to bear upon the wholesale piecegoods dealers of Calcutta to make them close their shops for a long period. This policy of pressure was successful only in so far that the wholesale dealers were induced to close their shops completely on the 15th of the **February.**

month, the date of the arrival of the Franchise Committee, and partially on two other days. At this stage the general feeling of uncertainty created by the boycott was having its effect in decreases in the orders placed for new stocks of material.

March.

8. In March the celebration of the anniversary of Mr. Gandhi's march to Dandi at the opening of his salt campaign of 1930 proved a complete fiasco, while "Bhagat Singh day," which was warmly sponsored by Congress in spite of its professed abhorrence of violence, was equally a failure. At places in the Sutahata and Tamluk thanas of the Midnapore district additional police forces had to be posted at the cost of the inhabitants who had taken part in disorderly mass demonstrations. There was now a marked drop in the number of persons convicted in connection with the movement, proof that the organisers were failing to maintain the interest of the public and to procure recruits willing to court arrest. In the Calcutta piecegoods market some wholesale dealers, who had undertaken to keep their own shops shut for a month, made strenuous efforts to make other shopkeepers close down but were met by such strong opposition that even the shops which had been closed were reopened for business. Thereafter the piecegoods market was practically free from interference by Congress agents while the firm attitude adopted by Government had the effect of gradually reopening the channels of distribution and of inducing a healthier tone in the general trade situation in so far as it had been affected by boycott.

April.

9. In April His Excellency Sir John Anderson who had taken over charge as Governor of Bengal on the 29th of March, in replying to addresses of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and of the Marwari Association, refuted the assertion that the Ordinances were prejudicial to the interests of trade and commerce and pointed out that civil disobedience had preceded the Ordinances. The latter were designed and administered for the protection and benefit of the law-abiding sections of the community and especially for those whose normal pursuits, commercial and financial, rendered them most vulnerable to any disturbances affecting the safety of property and the maintenance of credit. During this month the celebration of "national week" passed off without incident, but on "Jallianwalla Bagh day" there were partial hartals in some districts. A new form of annoyance was tried (and proved a failure) in the Post Office boycott. It caused some inconvenience in Calcutta and Contai, attempts being made at the latter place to picket the post office and to induce postal peons not to carry the mails, but this post office boycott was merely a stupid "stunt" which only served further to discredit Congress. Attempts were also made at starting no-tax campaigns

in the Vishnupur subdivision of the Bankura district and in the district of Midnapore.

10. In Bankura, Midnapore and the Arambagh subdivision of the district of Hooghly the efforts of the Congress representatives were successful in working up opposition to the realisation of union board taxes, a success to which the prevailing economic distress was an important contributory factor. In the Nandigram thana of the Midnapore district a small party of police while engaged in dispersing a salt demonstration was attacked by a hostile mob on which it had to open fire. An additional police force was consequently posted at that place at the cost of the inhabitants while similar measures were taken at Sonamukhi, a municipality of the Vishnupur subdivision, because of the defiant and disorderly conduct of the inhabitants. In the markets and shops in Calcutta there was no attempt to revert to the direct intimidation of customers, while the use of active boycott as a weapon had practically ceased. **May.**

Renewal of the Ordinances.

11. The Ordinances were due to lapse at the end of June and before deciding the question of their renewal their value in combating civil disobedience and the attitude adopted towards them by the people as a whole were reviewed. It appeared from the reports of Divisional Commissioners that the Ordinances had been used both in rural and urban areas with entirely salutary results. They were appreciated by all loyal sections of the community and they had confirmed in their allegiance those elements whose natural inclination it was to support an ordered system of Government—the Muhammadans, the zamindars, the merchants and the traders who stand to lose much by the spread of lawlessness. The cultivating and artisan classes also were only too glad to be allowed to live in peace and free from the intimidation of Congress agents. Lastly, the unequivocal attitude of Government had greatly heartened its own servants. That the Ordinances were effective against civil disobedience was proved by the progressive decline month by month in the number of convictions both under the ordinary law and under the Ordinances. The movement, however, was not dead, and there was reason to believe that in some parts of the province at least the continuance of the powers conferred by the Ordinances was absolutely necessary if conditions were not to revert to a state of lawlessness. The Government of India accepted this view and the main provisions of the Ordinances were accordingly promulgated in a consolidated form in the Special Powers Ordinance of the 30th June. Speaking on the India Office vote in the House of Commons the Secretary of State for India, in defending the new Ordinance, said that though the movement was under control and the mischief makers had been effectively checked,

Congress did not intend to abandon its subversive campaign and it was therefore necessary that special powers should be retained in reserve to meet any contingency that might arise. The new Ordinance left the extension of its "emergency powers" provisions to the discretion of Local Governments. In Bengal it was at first extended to 16 districts only out of 27, though subsequently it was found necessary to extend some provisions, but not all, to certain other districts.

Further progress of civil disobedience.

12. In June attempts were made to hold district political conferences at Howrah, Jhenida in the Jessore district and at Tehata in the district of Nadia. At all three places the police prevented the delegates from assembling and no conferences were held. At Tehata, however, the attitude of the crowds was aggressive, the police who were accompanied by the District Magistrate had to open fire and one person was killed and several others wounded. Endeavours were also made to hold a provincial conference at Calcutta but that design was frustrated by the prevention of the departure of delegates from their respective districts, the closing of the parks and by a number of preventive arrests in Calcutta. There was an improvement in the situation in the Vishnupur subdivision owing to the vigorous steps taken by the authorities to enforce the collection of chowkidari taxes. The imposition of an additional police force in the municipality of Midnapore, the headquarters of a district long notorious for its adherence to the cult of lawlessness, was sanctioned. This was made necessary on account of numerous disorderly demonstrations in support of the movement together with a persistent failure on the part of the public to co-operate with the authorities in the tracing of criminals, the most recent conspicuous example of which had been seen on the occasion of the murder of Mr. Douglas in April. In July at Masuria and Dantan, both places in the Midnapore district, the police had to fire on unruly mobs which had assembled to attend political conferences and had refused to disperse when ordered to do so. A collective fine was imposed in August on Maheshbathan and four adjoining villages of the 24-Parganas, long a stronghold of civil disobedience and long conspicuous for its resistance to authority. In October certain sections of the Special Powers Ordinance were extended to the districts of Mymensingh, Murshidabad and Faridpur, chiefly in order to facilitate the taking of land and buildings for the accommodation of troops and military police. November saw a recrudescence of trouble in the Midnapore district where considerable difficulty was experienced in collecting the taxes assessed for the maintenance of the additional police in the Tamluk subdivision. In the same district a collective fine was imposed under the Special Powers Ordinance upon

villages in the Nandigram thana and another upon villages in the thana of Mahisadal for acts of lawlessness done in pursuance of the civil disobedience movement. In the last month of the year Midnapore continued to be troublesome and collective fines were imposed on certain villages in the police-stations of Tamluk, Ramnagar and Contai for the harbouring of civil disobedience volunteers and for doing wanton damage to the property of a president panchayat and chowkidars who gave information leading to their arrest. In other districts, however, the movement was by now practically quiescent and had ceased to give cause for anxiety.

Bengal Public Security Act.

13. Such was the position at the close of the year. Congress had failed, and Government had successfully fulfilled the purpose put before it in the Viceroy's Statement of the 4th January. But the special powers which made the successful accomplishment of that task possible were to lapse with the expiry of the Special Powers Ordinance in December. As a measure of precaution the Local Government decided that it ought to take powers to enable it (in the words of the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill) "in case of emergency to combat activities which are subversive of law and order, or prejudicial to the public security and for the suppression of which the ordinary powers of Government are inadequate," and the Bengal Public Security Bill was introduced and passed at the November session of the Legislative Council. The Act is definitely a weapon to be kept in reserve and employed only when and where necessary to counter a recrudescence of civil disobedience, or a movement of a similar nature. So far it has been necessary to extend it only to three subdivisions of Midnapore district, that stronghold of obstinate defiance of authority, and to Arambagh subdivision of the Hooghly district.

Terrorism: Assassinations and attempted murders.

14. On the 6th of February at the Convocation of the Calcutta University a woman graduate attempted to shoot His Excellency Sir Stanley Jackson who was presiding at the meeting in his capacity of Chancellor. The shots, though fired at close range, fortunately missed their target and His Excellency escaped unhurt. The perpetrator of the crime was subsequently sentenced to 9 years' rigorous imprisonment. On 30th April Mr. R. Douglas, a successor of the late Mr. J. Peddie as District Magistrate of Midnapore, was fired at and mortally wounded by two terrorists while presiding at a meeting of the District Board. One of the assailants made good his escape but the other was pursued, arrested and subsequently hanged. On 13th June Captain Cameron of the 2/8th Gurkhas was killed during a raid upon a

house at Dhalghat in the Chittagong district in course of which one of the absconding leaders of the Chittagong Armoury Raid, Nirmal Sen, and one other absconder were killed in attempting to escape. On 27th June Babu Kamakhya Prasad Sen, Sub-Deputy Magistrate, who had incurred odium by his work as a special officer in suppressing civil disobedience in the Munshiganj subdivision, was fired at and killed while asleep in his lodging at Dacca. His assailant was subsequently traced, tried and sentenced to death. On 29th July Mr. E. B. Ellison, Additional Superintendent of Police, Tippera, was attacked by a revolutionary armed with a revolver and received such grievous injuries that he expired a week after the outrage. His assailant has not yet been brought to justice. On 5th August a terrorist fired at point-blank range at Sir Alfred Watson, Editor of the "Statesman" as he was approaching his office in a car. The shot miraculously missed its mark, and the would-be assassin took poison and died shortly after his arrest. Less than three weeks later there followed another shooting outrage, the victim on this occasion being Mr. C. G. Grassby, Additional Superintendent of Police, Dacca. The injuries received by Mr. Grassby though serious were not of a dangerous nature. The assailant, who was wounded by shots fired by Mr. Grassby's guard, was captured as he was attempting to escape, and subsequently convicted and sentenced to transportation for life. On Saturday 24th September occurred the most foul and cowardly of all the crimes yet perpetrated by the terrorists. At Pahartali, close to Chittagong, a body of them attacked at night the unprotected Railway Institute which was then crowded by persons of both sexes. Standing at the doors and windows of the building they fired revolvers and muskets at the defenceless occupants and threw bombs on to the floor, killing one elderly European lady and wounding seven men and five women. One of the attacking party, a young woman, who had apparently taken poison was found dead near the scene of the occurrence. As no information was forthcoming regarding the perpetrators of this outrage, Government after warning the inhabitants of Chittagong imposed on the Hindu community of the area concerned a heavy collective fine. On the 28th of September a second attempt was made on the life of Sir Alfred Watson. On this occasion the assailants followed and overtook Sir Alfred's car in one of their own, fired with their revolvers at close quarters and wounded Sir Alfred, his lady Secretary and his driver. Two of the terrorists took poison and died in the belief that they could not effect their escape while the third was successful in eluding pursuit. Skilful police investigation resulted in six men being placed on their trial, one of whom was sentenced to transportation for life, two others to shorter terms and three acquitted. On the 18th

November Mr. C. A. W. Luke, Superintendent of the Rajshahi Central Jail, was attacked in his car at dusk by three men and seriously injured in the head by revolver shots. The assailants though pursued half heartedly by some people who happened to be in the vicinity escaped. One, however, was traced and subsequently sentenced to transportation for seven years.

15. In the month of January there were three cases of armed robbery, including an attack on the mail van of the Noakhali train near Laksam Junction by six armed youths who held up the postal sorter and made off with the insured covers. There were two cases of murderous assault upon Government officers, the victim of one being a sergeant of the Dacca City Police who was set upon and badly wounded by four young men who stole his revolver. In February two armed robberies were committed. In March guns were stolen on two occasions in the district of Dacca, the owner of the gun in one of those cases being done to death. Five men armed with revolvers and daggers raided Charmuguria post office in the district of Faridpur. Remarkable courage was, however, displayed both by members of the postal staff and by a number of villagers, who, despite the fact that one of their number was stabbed to death and three others injured, persevered in the pursuit until they overtook and overpowered all the raiders. In April there were four attacks by armed youths on postal peons and mail runners resulting in one instance in the death of a peon. An armed robbery was committed in a train in the Rangpur district and an armed dacoity in a merchant's shop in Calcutta. In May several youths stopped a train by pulling the communication cord at Tezgaon near Dacca, stole over thirty thousand rupees from a passenger, fired at and wounded the guard and made off in a taxi which they eventually had to abandon, leaving about one-fourth of the spoils behind. At Angaria in the Faridpur district four terrorists were frustrated in an attempt to steal the bag of a mail runner by the bravery of a local kabiraj and some chowkidars who, in spite of being fired on by the robbers, refused to be shaken off until they ultimately succeeded in capturing the four men. One of the latter had been so badly wounded by a fishing spear during the chase that he died of his injuries the following day. At Dacca the guard of a retired official was waylaid and his revolver stolen, while in Comilla three youths were arrested with revolvers in their possession shortly after they had committed a mail robbery. In June several armed dacoities were committed and there was also a serious theft of magazine rifles and other arms from the house of a zamindar at Rangpur. In October an important absconding terrorist and a companion were arrested in the Barisal district

with a pistol and a bomb in their possession, while in Calcutta the arrest of two other leading absconders led to the finding of several weapons and bombs. In November at Dhamrai in Dacca district a mail runner who had been fired at and wounded by an armed robber courageously tackled his assailant and with the help of some members of the public succeeded in making him prisoner. The concluding month of the year was marked by the arrests in Bengal of one escaped terrorist convict, one escaped detenu, one absconding detenu and four other suspects in whose possession arms and ammunition were found, while one of the absconders of the Chittagong armoury raid case who was also wanted in connection with the shooting of Captain Cameron was arrested at Rangoon by the Burma police. The 1st March 1932 saw the conclusion of the long-drawn out Chittagong Armoury Raid case trial, which commenced on 11th September 1930. Thirty persons were tried, twelve of whom were sentenced to transportation for life and two to lesser sentences. Sixteen were acquitted.

Action against terrorism: (a) Preventive detention.

16. Power had been taken by Ordinance IX of 1931, subsequently replaced by Act IV of 1932, to amend the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1930, so as to make it possible to take preventive action against members of terrorist associations as such and also against persons who, though not themselves members, did any act to assist the operation of any such association. It had also made possible the arrest of those members of revolutionary associations, often the leaders and organisers, who stood in the background and avoided participation in violent acts. The promulgation of the Ordinance was followed in the last two months of 1931 by an acceleration of the rate of arrests to a figure never before attained and in order to provide the additional accommodation required a new camp had been opened in December 1931. From January 1932 there was another rapid rise in the number of arrests, the highest figure reached being well over one hundred for the month of October. Adjustments of accommodation made it possible to augment the numbers that could be detained at the camps at Hijli, Buxa and Berhampore, but this did not prove adequate and the Berhampore camp had to be extended, the new section being ready for occupation in November 1932.

(b) Externment of detenus and Regulation III prisoners.

17. The advantages of having dangerous persons removed altogether outside the province had long been recognised by the Local Government and in consonance with this view the Government of India agreed early in 1932 to deal with a few of the leading and most dangerous detenus under Regulation III of 1818 and detain them in jails outside the Province. The number of dangerous revolutionaries however was large, plotting still went on within the camps, communication in spite of all precautions was

kept up between those in detention and their allies outside, and it soon became clear that considerations of safety demanded that still more of the influential revolutionary leaders should be sent outside the Province. A Bill therefore to amend the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act so as to permit of the externment of detenus from Bengal was placed by the Government of India before the Legislative Assembly and was passed on the 30th March 1932. The Government of India found a suitable site at Deoli in Ajmer-Merwara and a new detention jail was opened there with accommodation for one hundred detenus on the 9th April 1932. Within a few months it was occupied almost to its full capacity. The value of sending detenus to this remote locality having been proved, the Government of India have agreed to extend the jail so as to accommodate four hundred more detenus and it is expected that this additional accommodation will be available early in 1933.

(c) Terrorist convicts to be sent to the Andaman Islands.

18. A second deterrent measure taken in the anti-terrorist campaign was to reopen the Andaman Islands as a place of imprisonment for persons who had been convicted of terrorist crimes. Two batches totalling fifty-eight prisoners were despatched from this Province in 1932.

(d) Additional troops for Bengal.

19. On the 18th August a communique was issued announcing the decision of the Government of India on a representation of the Government of Bengal to augment very substantially the military forces in the Presidency. In spite of the special measures which had been taken, assassinations and the commission of political crimes had not ceased and it was believed that ocular proof, of the reserves of power possessed by Government would both hearten their supporters and show to those anxious to subvert ordered government that they were determined to crush the forces of disorder. This belief has not been falsified, and there is no doubt that the presence of the augmented garrison has greatly contributed to the improved situation which gradually came about towards the end of the year. This augmented garrison consists of one battalion of British infantry and six battalions of Indian infantry and is stationed at Dacca, Comilla, Mymensingh, Saidpur, Bankura, Chittagong and Midnapore.

(e) Anti-terrorist legislation of the Legislative Council.

20. The Bengal Emergency Powers Ordinance which had been promulgated on the 30th November 1931 in order to give Government special powers to deal with the situation in Chittagong was due to expire on the 31st May 1932. Chapter I, being the emergency powers portion of that Ordinance, had been applied only to the Chittagong district, while Chapter II which conferred powers to appoint special criminal courts was extended to the whole of

Bengal. It was sufficiently clear that, if the Ordinance were allowed to lapse, encouragement would be given to the terrorists and to their sympathisers in the district of Chittagong and elsewhere, that the terrorists would at once take advantage of the weakening of the hands of authority and that therefore the special powers must be continued. Meanwhile, however, the Emergency Powers Ordinance had been promulgated on the 4th January in order to deal with the civil disobedience movement. As that Ordinance contained emergency powers which were suitable for dealing with terrorism as well, it was unnecessary to re-enact all the provisions of the Ordinance of November 1931 and further action was therefore confined to the promulgation of a fresh but short Ordinance, the Bengal Emergency Powers Ordinance (IX of 1932), which supplemented where necessary for the special needs of conditions in Chittagong, the Emergency Powers Ordinance of January 1932. The position remained unaltered when the Emergency Powers Ordinance of 1932 was replaced on the 30th June by the Special Powers Ordinance. Before, however, the latter Ordinance expired at the end of December the Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Bill which was designed to give Government the special powers it had been furnished with up to then under the Ordinances was introduced in August in the local Legislative Council. The Bengal Criminal Law Second Amendment Bill was introduced in the same session. the most important provision of which was that which conferred upon Commissioners powers to pass a sentence of death for an attempt to commit murder. Both those Bills were passed by substantial majorities. Finally at the November session of the Legislative Council was passed the Bengal Criminal Law (Arms and Explosives) Bill, 1932, the object of which was to make punishable with transportation for life certain offences under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, and the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, and to provide for the trial by Special Courts of certain offences committed in connection with the smuggling of weapons and ammunition under the Arms Act.

(*f*) Committees of public safety.

21. Committees of public safety were organised in October at Dacca with a view to procuring the practical co-operation of the inhabitants of that city in combating terrorist crime. The town area was divided into sections containing about two hundred houses each and a small committee composed partly of Hindus and partly of Muhammadans was made responsible for each division and for reporting to the authorities any terrorist activity or the presence of any suspect that might come to their notice. Encouraged by local officers, other towns were not long in following the example thus set by Dacca, but whether the policy really contains the seeds of success it is yet premature to judge. In Chittagong,

for example, where conditions call for the earnest effort of every well-disposed man to combat terrorism on this and other lines, there is unfortunately little indication so far that really useful work is being done. In so far, however, as this movement appears to be a genuine attempt to combat revolutionary crime and in so far as it receives the support of the general public in the achievement of this object, it is the policy of Government to do everything in their power to encourage and foster its development.

General review of terrorism.

22. The terrorist situation during 1932 may be summed up briefly as follows. The first three-quarters of the year gave little cause for satisfaction, and during September and October there was a period of grave anxiety. But as the year drew to a close, except for the outrage at Rajshahi when Mr. Luke was attacked, conditions improved and they were certainly better at the close of the year than they had been for some time previously. It would be folly to prophesy, and the end of the road is still a long way off, but it cannot be denied that a feeling of confidence had grown up among the supporters of Government by the end of 1932 which had not been there during the previous two years. This is to be attributed to the steady and resolute pressure which it was the policy of Government to exert and to the moral effect of Government's determination to use all their resources to crush terrorism, a determination which was manifested by legislative measures, in an improved and enlarged intelligence system without which no success could be expected, and by the proof afforded by an augmented military garrison that the Central Government stood behind the Local Government. That these measures were bearing fruit was shown during the latter part of the year by a number of valuable captures of wanted men, arms and documents, captures which constituted a severe blow to one at least of the terrorist groups.

Communal situation and the communal award.

23. On the 9th March there took place in Calcutta the execution of two up-country Muhammadans who had been sentenced to death on a charge of murder. Excited by what they believed to be an affront to their religion, they had killed three Hindus connected with a Calcutta bookshop which had advertised for sale a publication containing a picture of the Prophet. The Muhammadan community in Calcutta was greatly agitated by what it considered to be an excessive sentence in view of the youthfulness of the perpetrators of the crime, and much capital was also made of the alleged fact that many Hindus who had committed political murders had not suffered the extreme penalty of the law. The possibilities of the situation were such that when permission was granted to the relatives to remove the bodies for burial from the jail to the Tiljala cemetery, Government had to stipulate

that the police should accompany the bodies from the jail and that the bodies should not be removed from the cemetery. A large gathering of Muhammadans had assembled at the cemetery and delay in the preparation of the graves gave an opportunity for the bodies to be carried several times round the burial ground while some irresponsible members of the crowd endeavoured to take the bodies outside. That design was, however, frustrated by Khilafat volunteers and the burial was eventually completed without serious incident. But many Muhammadan shops remained closed in Calcutta while there was a one-day strike in three mills at Budge-Budge as a protest against the executions.

24. Although there was no other open manifestation of bad feeling between the two great communities during the year it cannot be said that there was any real improvement in their relations with one another. Little, if any, genuine desire for compromise lay behind such attempts as were made at political rapprochement and mutual suspicion usually rendered them infructuous When therefore the Premier announced his determination to impose an award in the event of the communities failing to arrive at an agreed decision, it is not surprising that both communities ceased to make any efforts at agreement themselves and were content to await developments, although not without considerable misgivings as to the outcome.

Terms of the communal **decision.**

25. The communal decision announced on the 16th August was confined in scope to the Provincial Legislatures. While the promulgation of the award was necessitated by the fact that the continued failure of the communities to reach an agreement was retarding the plans for the framing of a new constitution. His Majesty's Government made it clear that this decision was not necessarily final and that, until the projected Government of India Bill became law, it would be open to the communities concerned to devise by mutual agreement some other workable scheme. Under the terms of the award, election to the seats allotted to Muhammadan, European and Sikh constituencies was to be by persons voting in separate communal electorates covering between them the whole area of the Province. Provision was to be made in the constitution itself for revision after ten years with the assent of the communities affected. All qualified electors who were not voters either in a Muhammadan, Sikh, Indian Christian, Anglo-Indian or European constituency were to vote in a general constituency. Members of the depressed classes or scheduled castes qualified to vote were to vote in a general constituency. As these castes were unlikely for some time to be able by this means alone to procure adequate representation in the Legislature, a number of special seats was assigned to them, to be filled by

election from special constituencies in which only members of the depressed classes electorally qualified were to be entitled to vote. Such voters would therefore have been entitled to vote both in a general and special constituency. It was proposed that this arrangement for special constituencies for the scheduled castes would be terminated after twenty years; in the meantime they might be abolished with the consent of the classes concerned.

Allocation of seats in Bengal.

26. The communal decision gave a house of 250 members for Bengal. Eighty of these seats, including two women's seats, were allocated to the general electorate which is equivalent to the present non-Muhammadan electorate. Of the eighty general seats, ten were to be given to the scheduled castes, the Muhammadans were given 119 seats including two for women, Indian Christians were given two, Anglo-Indians four including one for a woman, and Europeans eleven. Of the special seats landholders were given five, universities two, labour eight and commerce, industry, mining and planting nineteen, fourteen for Europeans and five for Indians. The numbers of the chief communities were fixed mainly on their population ratios; those of the Europeans followed the Minorities Pact. The consequent readjustment in the numbers between Muhammadans and Hindus was very badly received by the Hindus, whose numbers, relatively to their strength in the present Council, were considerably reduced. Many of their leaders asserted that the decision deliberately victimised them as a community on account of their past political activities. Some Muhammadans also criticised the award because it did not concede all that they had demanded: but on the whole the Muhammadan community was satisfied with what it had received. A motion to adjourn the business of the House in connection with the award was discussed in the Legislative Council on the 23rd August and, after a debate which showed few signs of very high feeling, was talked out. Of the four Hindu members who spoke, three strongly opposed the Premier's decision. The Muhammadans, while accepting the award, contended that it was unsatisfactory to their community. The Europeans held that an award of this sort was essential, as no future constitution would prove workable without a settlement of the question of communal representation.

27. During the same session considerable interest was created by a resolution of a Muhammadan member favouring a system of joint electorates in the future constitution. Government did not formally vote on this resolution. The Hon'ble Member in the Political Department explained that Government thought that separate electorates were not desirable in themselves but that there were practical considerations which could not be overlooked and which indicated that separate electorates must continue for some

time to come. The resolution was carried by a majority of fifteen, most of the Muhammadan members opposing it. Though some gave support to the principle of joint electorate if coupled with adult suffrage.

Mr. Gandhi's fast.

28. Keen interest was aroused by the publication of the correspondence which had passed between the Premier and the Secretary of State for India on the one hand and Mr. Gandhi on the other in connection with the latter's threat to "fast unto death" unless the grant of separate electorates for the depressed classes in the new constitution was withdrawn, followed as it was by the commencement of the fast. In his letter to Mr. Gandhi explaining the reasons for the decision of His Majesty's Government the Premier pointed out that, while full consideration had been given to the declared opposition of caste Hindus to the permanent segregation of the depressed classes from the Hindu community, it had on the other hand been impossible to ignore the urgent representations of the depressed classes for special consideration and it had been felt that it was the duty of Government to safeguard the right of those classes to a fair proportion of representation in the Legislature. By the communal decision the depressed classes would remain a part of the Hindu community while they would receive through a limited number of special constituencies the means of safeguarding their rights and interests. All depressed class voters would be included in the general Hindu constituencies so that higher caste candidates would have to solicit their votes while depressed class candidates who stood for election in a general constituency would have to solicit the votes of the higher castes. Such an arrangement would have the effect of preserving the unity of Hindu society. It would appear therefore that Mr. Gandhi was threatening to starve himself to death "not in order to secure that the depressed classes should have joint electorates with other Hindus, which had already been provided, nor to maintain the unity of Hindus which had also been provided, but solely to prevent the depressed classes, who admittedly suffered from terrible calamities, from being able to secure a limited number of representatives of their own choosing to speak on their behalf in Legislatures which will have a dominating influence over their future."

The Pact.

29. The news of Mr. Gandhi's decision with its possible consequences caused great perturbation in the minds of the Hindus of Bengal. Meetings were held and public appeals were issued to launch a campaign against untouchability. Temples, the doors of which had for centuries been closed to the depressed classes, were thrown open in the hope that this gesture would inspire them with sufficient confidence to rely on the higher castes to represent

their interests in the Legislature. It is still too early to decide how far this agitation against untouchability is likely to persist as a genuine movement, but there can be no doubt that many Hindu leaders sincerely deprecate the separation of the depressed classes from the general body of their community, as they realise that such a separation is likely to prove a handicap for Hindus in the struggle for power under the new constitution. The agitation as is well known resulted in the Poona Pact of the 25th September. So far as Bengal is concerned the effect is to reserve thirty out of the general seats in the Provincial Legislature for the depressed classes. In place of the separate electorates prescribed in the communal decision, the Pact introduces joint electorates. Elections will be subject to a double procedure. All members of the depressed classes registered in the general electoral roll of a constituency will form an electoral college which will elect a panel of four candidates belonging to the depressed classes for each reserved seat by the method of a single vote, and the four persons receiving the highest number of votes at the primary elections will be candidates for election in the joint electorate. The Pact stipulates that the system of primary election and the panel of candidates for election to the Legislature will come to an end after ten years unless terminated in the meantime by mutual agreement between the parties concerned.

Government accept the Pact.

30. The acceptance of the agreement by His Majesty's Government, followed as it was by the end of Mr. Gandhi's fast, was hailed with feelings of relief by the Hindu community. When, however, the leaders of the higher castes in Bengal, their minds free of anxiety for the safety of the Mahatma, were able quietly to consider the full implication of the terms of the agreement, its disadvantages became only too clearly apparent and opinion definitely crystallised against a Pact in the framing of which no representative of the caste Hindus of this Province had taken part, and the terms of which were so much less favourable to them than the award of the Premier.

Agrarian trouble.

31. The depressed conditions which had prevailed in 1931 in agricultural areas, and particularly those that grew jute, continued in the year under report and in certain places were taken advantage of by Congress representatives in order to create discontent amongst the raiyats. In January meetings were organised by agitators in the Noakhali district with the object of stirring up feelings on communist lines, as had been done towards the end of the preceding year in the neighbouring district of Tippera. In the Mymensingh district associations of cultivators were formed with the object of refusing to pay the rents of zamindars

and also the debts of money-lenders. February saw a recrudescence of the trouble in the Tippera district in which Congress agents took part, and a large mob which was gathered at a demonstration in favour of the non-payment of rents attacked a Sub-Inspector and a body of constables and had to be fired on before it would disperse. The District Magistrate of Mymensingh took action under the Emergency Powers Ordinance against two Muhammadan members of the Legislative Council who had been fomenting the movement for the non-payment of rent, while similar action was taken in the Faridpur district against the Vice-Chairman of the Madaripur Local Board who was also the president of the local cultivators' association. In one thana of the Kishoreganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district Muhammadans were combining with members of tenants' associations in order to exert pressure upon money-lenders with a view to compelling them to remit their demands for interest. Feeling ran so high at times that debtors set fire to the property of money-lenders, but the prosecution of some of the ringleaders soon put a stop to the commission of such crimes. In east Bengal the majority of mahajans are Hindus and a large proportion of their debtors are Muhammadans of the cultivating class. It was therefore not surprising that in the Mymensingh district the movement, which was economic in origin, assumed on this as on past occasions, an anti-Hindu and communal complexion.

Tornadoes: Mymensingh jail disaster.

32. At 4 p.m. on the 9th May a tornado, moving rapidly on a path about six hundred feet broad, struck the Mymensingh jail at the moment of attaining its maximum intensity. Though the tornado had passed on in less than five minutes a great part of the high outer wall was laid in ruins and scarcely a building within the compass of the jail, except those of the strongest construction, escaped serious injury. Twenty-seven persons lost their lives while about one hundred and fifty were injured. Many prisoners succeeded in escaping in the confusion but either returned of their own accord or were recaptured. The storm also did serious damage in adjacent villages, the number of dead being estimated at fifteen and the injured at seventy. A storm of a similar type which passed over a length of five miles in the Faridpur district in the same month caused heavy damage to crops and homesteads and resulted in death to twelve persons and injuries to one hundred and fifty others.

Government and the Calcutta Corporation.

33. At the beginning of July Government addressed to the Calcutta Corporation two letters asking for information on certain points relating to the administration of the city and also inviting the Corporation's opinion on the working of the Calcutta Municipal Act of 1923 with reference to certain specific points with

a view to deciding whether the Act should be amended. The first letter called upon the Corporation to furnish full details of the working of the Primary Education Department with particular reference to cases, if any, in which teachers and students of that department had taken part in civil disobedience or in political demonstrations and the disciplinary action, if any, taken by the Corporation. A full and satisfactory reply was asked for within a fixed time in order to obviate the necessity of appointing an officer to investigate the affairs of the Corporation. In the second letter it was pointed out that the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923, placed the Corporation on an extremely democratic basis, widened its constitution and gave it considerably enlarged powers by reducing to a minimum Government control over its internal administration. The Government of Bengal considered that the time had come to examine in the light of experience how far the provisions of the Act had fulfilled the objects of the legislature and whether difficulties had been experienced which pointed to the existence of defects in the Act. With these objects in view the Corporation were asked to explain certain features of their financial and general administration including that of dilatory disposal of audit objections, delay in the transaction of business and the details of certain tenders that had been accepted, and their comments were invited on certain suggestions made for amending the Act. Shortly afterwards Government addressed a third letter to the Corporation in regard to some alterations to the pumping schemes at Ballygunge and Palmers-bridge. They pointed out that the electrical works comprised in these and other schemes appeared to form component parts of a comprehensive electrical project for producing and distributing electrical energy which required the sanction of Government under section 14 of the Calcutta Municipal Act. It was suggested that the execution by the Corporation of a considerable part of this project without such sanction amounted to an evasion of their responsibilities under the Act.

34. The Corporation asked for an extension of time within which to reply to the first letter. Their response eventually was merely a disclaimer of responsibility for the political activities of their staff, and as the Corporation have thus failed to recognise their duty Government have decided to introduce early legislation to prevent the employment of persons convicted of offences committed in furtherance of subversive movements. In answer to the second letter the Corporation contended that Government had no right to interfere. Government were unable to accept this contention but decided to postpone action till after the Corporation election in March, 1933. In reply to the third letter the

The Corporation's reply.

Corporation disclaimed any intention of infringing section 14 of the Act and this question which is one of a technical nature remains to be decided by Government after it has been fully examined by experts.

Rural unemployment scheme.

35. In order to relieve middle class unemployment in Bengal a comprehensive scheme of economic reconstruction has been formulated by the Department of Agriculture and Industries and approved by the Government of Bengal. The scheme provides facilities at suitable centres in the Province for training middle class youths in local and indigenous industries, the products of which are in universal use and already have a wide market. The main object is to afford to young men at present unemployed an opportunity of training themselves in improved processes in the conduct of the more important cottage industries. While the knowledge of improved methods thus acquired will, it is expected, afford remunerative occupation to a considerable number of persons, it is also hoped that it will be handed on to the village caste workers who still follow the antiquated systems of their fathers. The scheme provides for the establishment of four demonstration parties to give instruction in seven selected industries, for an industrial survey, the compilation of an industrial directory and the appointment of advisory boards in each district. It is estimated that at the outset the recurring cost will be one lakh of rupees per annum. Partial effect was given to the scheme during the financial year 1932-33.

The Press: Special Legislation.

36. The history of the Press and the measures taken to deal with it in the last three years (to go no further back) afford proof, if proof were needed, of the mischief that can be done by a press which regarded neither decency nor truth in its efforts to support a campaign against ordered Government, and of the vital importance to Government of special powers to restrain it. During the civil disobedience movement of 1930 up to the promulgation of the Indian Press Ordinance on 27th April of that year there was no more powerful ally of Congress, not only in Bengal but throughout the whole of India, than the nationalist press. Ordinance No. II of 1930 was of immense value in the struggle against civil disobedience and was perhaps welcomed by Government officers more than any other special measure of control. It expired at the end of six months, in October 1930, and after a short interval which showed only too plainly that no improvement from within could be expected from the press, a fresh Ordinance, No. X of 1930, was promulgated on the 23rd December 1930. This was withdrawn in March 1931 on the conclusion of the Irwin-Gandhi agreement, but the inevitable failure of the Indian press to exercise restraint and moderation in the terms of that settlement led to the passing

by the Legislative Assembly in October 1931 of the Indian Press Emergency Powers Act. But that measure was strictly limited in its scope and was useful as a deterrent only against incitements to commit the major offences of murder and violence. When therefore civil disobedience was revived in 1932, Government determined that in the forthcoming struggle the power of the nationalist press should be severely curtailed and by section 63 of the Emergency Powers Ordinance of 1932 section 4(*1*) of the Indian Press Act was amended and suitable powers conferred upon Government for its purpose. This power was maintained in the Special Powers Ordinance of July 1932, and again found a place in section 16 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932, of the Legislative Assembly which was enacted on 24th December 1932, and which will have effect for three years.

Action taken to control the press.

37. Early in 1932 a Press Officer was appointed for Bengal to advise newspapers generally on the interpretation of the Press Act and the relevant portions of the Ordinance. A general warning was at once communicated to the press to the effect that the publication of any matter relating to the programme of civil disobedience would render those at fault liable to action under section 17(*1*) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, or section 4 of the Emergency Powers Ordinance. Immediate recourse was also had to the provision of the Ordinance under which security may be demanded and the more dangerous of the leading newspapers—"Liberty," "Swatantra," "Hind" and "Benu"—were the first to be called upon to furnish it. In the course of the year security was demanded in over fifty cases, in four of which partial forfeiture had to be ordered, the two most important offenders being "Liberty" and the Indian Daily Press. In the same period over one hundred preliminary warnings were conveyed to individual editors. The restraining influence to which the newspapers were subjected throughout the year certainly had a most salutary effect.

Unauthorised news sheets.

38. As in previous years, so in 1932 one immediate effect of the imposition of restrictions upon the press was the appearance of a flood of news sheets which constituted the only vehicle by means of which Congress could bring before the public its false and misleading propaganda. These sheets which were a feature of the early months of the year were produced and circulated with considerable cunning and the police experienced much difficulty in tracing those publications to their respective sources. Later, however, they became much less numerous.

Reaction of the press to incidents of importance.

39. In February many protests against the alleged high-handed application of the Ordinances appeared in the nationalist

papers. Sir Samuel Hoare's speech on the Indian situation, and particularly the concluding reference to the proverb "Though dogs bark the caravan passes on," was deeply resented by the Hindu newspapers. The proceedings of the Franchise Committee were given little publicity but the question of indirect election by the group system was widely discussed. In March security was taken from one newspaper on account of its communist writings and from two others which had attempted to exacerbate communal feeling. In April the decision of Congress to hold a session at Delhi failed to procure the active support of the local press, which was more interested in the attempt to hold a provincial meeting in Calcutta and in its failure owing to the opposition of the authorities. May saw much speculation regarding the possibility of the renewal of the Ordinances which were represented as being both useless and oppressive. There was much adverse criticism of the report of the Federal Finance Committee and much speculation regarding the reason for the visits of the heads of Provinces to Simla. In June the report of the Franchise Committee was received with a chorus of disapproval which was loudest in the Hindu section of the press. Comments on the recent statements of the Secretary of State for India were almost universally unfavourable. In July the announcement of the proposed programme of work leading up to the inauguration of the new constitution aroused widespread dissatisfaction and the nationalist newspapers were jubilant at the prospect of the withdrawal of the support of the moderates. The Hindu editors thought that the framing of a Bill after consultation merely with Indian leaders could not be so satisfactory as the devising of a constitution to represent the greatest common measure of agreement arrived at after free discussion by all interests and schools of thought. When the Calcutta Corporation was called upon by Government to give information on certain of its activities, it was urged to put up a strong fight against what was represented as an attempt to restrict the rights of the rate-payers of Calcutta. The main topic in August was the communal award which called forth a chorus of condemnation in the Hindu press. The Government statement in the Legislative Council regarding action taken to deal with officers whose conduct during the events which followed the murder of Inspector Ahsanulla at Chittagong was held to be at fault was criticised as being insufficiently informative, while the proposals to transfer terrorist prisoners to the Andamans and to strengthen the military garrison of Bengal elicited strong protests. In September the fast of Mr. Gandhi occupied the almost hysterical attention of the newspapers to the exclusion of practically everything else. Much general interest was manifested in the progress of the discussions which led up

to the Poona Pact and the prompt acceptance of the agreement by the Premier was greatly appreciated. The personnel of the third Round Table Conference met with little approval, and most of the editors were convinced that it would achieve nothing. Attempts were made to create prejudice against the troops stationed at Dacca by exaggerating the importance of certain minor incidents and much outcry was raised against the imposition of the collective fine at Chittagong. Comments made on the judgment of the Douglas case in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" were the subject of contempt proceedings before the High Court in November in which the printer and publisher were fined.

Legislative Council.

40. In the year 1932 the Council groups remained practically unaltered, there having been no substantial change in their respective numbers since the election of 1930. There is still no ministerial party or parties with a definite and accepted programme on the basis of which members were returned to the Legislative Council. But the 2 Muhammadan Ministers belong to the largest Muhammadan group and the Hindu Minister belongs to a numerically large Hindu group. The Hindu Minister also has a good deal of influence over another Hindu group. The 3 Ministers collectively can count upon the votes of a large section of non-official members of the Council. As Congress boycotted the Legislative Council there are no members of the Council who can claim to belong to the Congress, but there are a strictly limited number who put forward Congress views. Groups.

41. In August the President was able to announce that Government had finally decided to separate in the immediate future the secretarial establishment of the Legislative Council from the Legislative Department. The object of this proposal, which was received with great satisfaction by the members, was to make the Council Department autonomous and self-contained under the authority of the President, subject only to the control of the Governor. Separation of Council from Legislative Department.

42. Three sessions were held during the year comprising sittings on sixty-eight days. Fourteen of these days were devoted to a general discussion of the budget and to the voting of demands; of the remaining fifty-four days eighteen were taken up by the transaction of the business of non-official members and the rest by official business. Sessions.

43 In the course of the year twenty-four Acts were passed of which four of minor importance were introduced by non-official members. Legislation dealing with terrorism and the public Acts passed.

security has been dealt with in a previous paragraph. Of the other Government measures three were of great importance. The Bengal Motor Vehicles Act, 1932, provided for the taxation of motor vehicles and for the expenditure of the proceeds on the upkeep of roads. It also withdrew the powers of the Corporation of Calcutta to tax motor vehicles, the Corporation receiving in future a fixed annual payment based on the receipts of a specified year. The Bengal Municipal Act of 1932 recast the Act of 1884 on modern lines so as to allow of a greater measure of popular control over civic administration in the towns of Bengal. Amongst other things it provided for the elimination of intervention by local officials except at the request of the Local Self-Government Department and for the representation of minority communities by the reservation of seats on a joint electorate. The amendments tabled numbered about two thousand and took fourteen days for their disposal. The Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1932, was designed to remove practical difficulties which had arisen in the working of the existing law.

Bills.

44. The Opium (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1931, and the Bengal Patni Taluks Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1932, both of which had passed the Select Committee stage, were the only official Bills pending at the close of the year. Twenty-four non-official Bills were dealt with during the year of which four were passed into law, four were rejected by the Council, eight were not moved or were withdrawn, four were referred to Select Committees, three were circulated for opinion and one had only reached the stage of introduction. The non-official Bill which aroused most general interest was the Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic Bill and many visitors including Indian ladies attended when this Bill was introduced. The main object of the Bill which has since been passed, was the suppression of commercialised vice.

Questions.

45. Notices of one thousand and seventy-nine questions were received, of which eight hundred and fifty-three were actually put and answered, one hundred and one were disallowed and thirty-one withdrawn, leaving ninety-four unanswered at the close of the sessions in which they were set down. In addition to the above numerous short notice and supplementary questions were put and answered.

Resolutions and motions of adjournment.

46. Three hundred and fifty-nine resolutions on matters of general public interest were tabled for discussion, while the number of topics actually discussed was nineteen which covered a larger number of resolutions many of which related to the same matters. At the first session a motion to adjourn the House on account of the failure of Government to publish the report of

the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division on the incidents which followed the murder of Inspector Khan Bahadur Ahsan-ullah was defeated. Government made a statement at the second session of the Council on this subject after the orders of the Government of India had been received. A resolution relating to the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act and another arising from the shooting incident at the Hijli detention camp, which were made the occasion for demanding the release of all detenus, were both lost after an effective defence of the Act had been made by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department. An important resolution demanding the appointment of a retrenchment committee was left by Government to the free vote of the House and was carried without a division. A protest was moved and carried on a special motion against the imposition of the additional duty on all imported salt and the granting of a rebate to the merchants of Aden on the ground that this duty imposed an unjustifiable burden upon the people of Bengal. A special motion in favour of a Second Chamber constituted on non-communal lines was defeated by a majority of only two votes. The debate developed largely on communal lines the Muhammadan members being solidly opposed to the proposal, which they considered would materially curtail the advantages that their community will derive from the Premier's award, while the Europeans and Hindus except for a few extremists and representatives of the depressed classes supported the motion and Government took no part. A motion for an adjournment to consider the matter of the health of the Regulation III prisoners, Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta and Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, was carried, an undertaking being given that the proceedings relating to this subject would be forwarded to the Government of India which is the authority under that Regulation.

47. When the budget was presented to the Council it revealed an anticipated excess of expenditure over income amounting to two crores of rupees. Faced with such a deficit it is not surprising that the Council was impressed by the Hon'ble Finance Member's condemnation of the Meston Award which had contributed so largely to the financial plight of Bengal. **Budget.**

48. The demands for grants were the occasion of much discussion and they took up a considerable amount of the Council's time. There were as many as one thousand one hundred sixty-three motions for the reduction or refusal of demands. Government were defeated on two occasions. One defeat was on a token cut on the demand under "Land Revenue" and was made in order to draw attention to excessive assessment of cess. The **Demands for grants.**

second defeat was in connection with a token cut under "Scheduled Taxes" and was made in order to draw attention to the prevalence of gambling in Calcutta.

Discussions on demands for grants.

49. In the course of the discussion of the police grant a grievance was made of alleged assaults by the police upon members of the public. The Hon'ble Member in charge of that department pointed out that before long the police would be under the control of a popular minister and that leaders of public opinion would be well advised to desist from making baseless allegations against a force which was their main bulwark against lawlessness and disorder. On the demand under "General Administration" a discussion which attained a high level of eloquence was raised on the desirability of introducing immediate and complete self-government in the Province.

Demands for other grants.

50. In addition to the grants of the annual budget the Council approved of demands for three excess grants and ten supplementary or additional grants. In no case was a supplementary demand refused although most of them were of an important nature covering large amounts. They were concerned chiefly with famine relief, loans for land improvement and to agriculturists, structural work in jails including the new additional jail at Dum-Dum and the reconstruction of the Mymensingh district jail, and the cost of keeping detenus outside Bengal and of maintaining the augmented garrison of the Province.

Industrial Disputes.

51. Throughout the year the industrial situation remained comparatively quiet and there were few disputes between workmen and their employers. A considerable portion of those which did occur were in jute mills and arose mostly from cuts in wages which had to be imposed on account of the depression prevailing in that industry.

Economic Situation.

52. There was no serious natural calamity having widespread effects during the year. Partial failure of crops in the district of Tippera and a more serious failure in the Feni subdivision of the Noakhali district caused considerable local distress which was relieved by large grants for agriculturists' loans and by gratuitous relief. In July a flood on the Jamuna river affected riparian areas of the districts of Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur and Mymensingh but the damage caused was not serious. The situation in those districts was still, however, affected by the results of the much

more serious flood of 1931 and by the general economic depression and large sums had to be set aside for agriculturists' loans as well as for the continuing of test relief works. Large agriculturists' loans were also given in two other districts in one of which the rabi crops had been severely damaged by hailstorms. From June onwards there was a slight rise in the price of raw jute of which the outturn was somewhat larger than in 1931 but this was only temporary and was soon followed by a fresh fall. There was a slight increase in the prices of cereals but it was not sufficient to benefit the raiyats, while after the harvesting of the winter paddy the price of rice fell still further towards the end of the year, price levels being reached which have been unheard of for many years. There was no scarcity of food but the lack of money in rural areas was everywhere acute, while neither mahajans nor co-operative banks, all of whom have their capital so tied up that they cannot make effective use of it, could do much to relieve the situation. The reduced purchasing power of the cultivator was reflected throughout the Province and not least in the difficulty which Government experienced in collecting revenue and the zamindars their rents. There was indeed some increase in the collection of revenue when compared with the year 1931 but that may have been due to the payment of arrears which had accumulated in previous bad years. Under the sale law, however, more estates became liable for sale than in 1931 while there were also more defaults and more sales of defaulting estates, even although the law was still applied with great leniency, and although exemption from sale was usually granted on the payment of only nominal penalties and in many cases on part payment of the arrears. The fall in the collection of revenue has not yet reached alarming proportions but there is reason to fear that in certain districts zamindars may soon reach a stage at which they will be unable to borrow and defaults
is reason to fear that in certain districts zamindars may soon
The all-pervading lack of money and the low prices of the more important products have made this Province suffer as much as any part of India and the stagnation in trade and business which marked the preceding year showed no signs of improvement in 1932.

Part II.

CHAPTER I.—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

For—

Physical features of the country, area, climate and chief staples,
Historical summary,
Forms of administration,
Civil divisions of British territory,

See—

Report on the Administration of Bengal, 1921-22, Part II, pages 1-123.

Changes in Administration.

The Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, KT., C.I.E., Member, Bengal Executive Council, was granted leave for three months with effect from the 26th January 1932, and Sir Bepin Behari Ghose, KT., was appointed to be a temporary Member of the said Council. The Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, KT., C.I.E., resumed charge of his office on return from leave on the 8th April 1932.

2. His Excellency Sir Francis Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.I.E., vacated the office of Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal on the 29th March 1932, and His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Sir John Anderson, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., assumed charge as Governor of Bengal on that date.

3. The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Member, Bengal Executive Council, was granted leave for four months with effect from the 30th June 1932, and Mr. R. N. Reid, C.I.E., I.C.S., was appointed to be a temporary Member of the said Council. The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., resumed charge of his office on return from leave on the 1st November 1932.

CHAPTER II.—TRIBUTARY STATES.

Cooch Behar.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1931-32.]

General. 4. Area 1,318 square miles, population 590,866; chief products rice, jute, tobacco and mustard seed; military force 227 men; present Maharaja His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

Political Agent. 5. During the year under review Mr. J. G. Drummond, I.C.S., was the Political Agent.

Financial. 6. The revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 26,11,308 against Rs. 29,31,763 of the previous year, showing a net decrease of Rs. 3,20,455. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 27,51,011 against Rs. 34,27,403 of the previous year showing a net decrease of Rs. 6,76,392.

State Railway. 7. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 3,08,075 and the net earnings to Rs. 1,64,606, showing a decrease in the earnings as compared with last year's figure.

Crops and condition of the people. 8. The rainfall during the year was 155·77 inches against 87·11 inches of the previous year and the normal rainfall of 135·98 inches. The price of common rice ranged from Rs. 2-14 to Rs. 4-2 per maund; of tobacco from Rs. 5-8 to Rs. 15 per maund; of mustard seed from Rs. 2-12 to Rs. 4-8 per maund; and of jute from Rs. 2-12 to Rs. 6-10 per maund. The price of paddy and that of the other chief crops of the country were much lower than those of the previous year owing to trade depression and the economic condition of the people was not good. The area of land under jute cultivation during the year was 16,000 acres against 31,000 acres in the previous year. The outturn of the crop was estimated to be 6 annas. Owing to the low market the cultivators derived little profit from this crop.

Crime. 9. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,326 against 2,451 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 125 cases. Under section 157 (*b*) of the Criminal Procedure Code the police refused investigation in 186 cases during the year

against 277 in the previous year. Ninety-three appeals were preferred, in 39 cases of which orders were confirmed, in 28 cases appeals were rejected, in 14 cases orders were modified, in 11 cases orders were reversed and one case remained pending.

10. The general health of the people was on the whole good notwithstanding some sporadic cases of cholera and small-pox. The number of malarial cases was high in comparison with the last three years. **Public Health.**

11. The number of higher English schools was 5 as in the previous year. The number of primary schools fell from 289 to 274. The number of middle English and middle Vernacular schools was 48 as in the previous year. The average daily attendance was 8,766 against 9,129 in the previous year. **Education.**

The number of students in the Victoria College showed a decrease and the highest number on the rolls was 311 against 330 in the previous year. The aggregate expenditure on primary and secondary schools amounted to Rs. 90,702 as against Rs. 91,673 last year.

Tripura.

[Annual Administration Report of the Tripura State for the year 1931-32.]

12. Area 4,116 square miles; population 3,82,450; military force 412; the first Tripura Bir Company has been recognised by the Government of India as an "A" class unit of the Indian States Forces; present Maharaja His Highness Maharaja Manikya Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur. **General.**

13. After the death of Mr. C. G. B. Stevens, I.C.S., in December 1931 Khan Bahadur Abdul Ghaffar, B.A., became the Political Agent of the State. **Political Agent.**

14. The gross revenue based on the average of the previous five years was Rs. 21,21,349 from the State and Rs. 10,95,924 from the zamindaries against Rs. 20,77,791 and Rs. 12,07,225 respectively in the preceding year. The total receipts from all sources including deposits, loans and law charges recovered amounted to Rs. 25,93,182 against Rs. 27,69,492 in the previous year. The total sum available for expenditure, including the opening balance of Rs. 9,72,666, was Rs. 35,65,848 against Rs. 37,43,914 in the previous year. The actual income including receipts under debt-heads amounted to Rs. 20,84,512 against Rs. 22,40,999 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,56,487. The fall in revenue was due to the general trade depression both in the State and the neighbouring British districts. The total expenditure **Financial.**

during the year amounted to Rs. 25,00,698 against Rs. 27,71,248 in the year before, showing a reduction of Rs. 2,70,550. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 10,65,150.

Crops and condition of the people.

15. The rainfall of the year was 82·74 inches against 92·58 inches in the previous year. The quinquennial average was 87·93 inches. Its distribution was fairly even. The principal crops in the State are paddy, cotton, *til*, mustard, jute and sugarcane. Potatoes, tobacco, and chillies of various types are also grown to a considerable extent. The people were seriously affected by the all-round economic depression.

Public Health.

16. During the year under report cholera appeared in a severe form in some parts of the State. There were 329 seizures with 270 deaths. Fourteen persons were attacked with small-pox and two died.

Crime.

17. The total number of cases reported to the police was 1,300 against 1,377 in the previous year. The number of persons arrested was 925, out of which 835 were sent up for trial. The percentage of recoveries of stolen property was 22·38 against 22·83 of the previous year.

Education.

18. Including 5 high English schools and one branch high English school and other private schools the total number of schools was 213 against 220 in the previous year. The number of pupils was 9,230 against 8,928 including 1,008 pupils reading in private institutions numbering 34 as against 43 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,27,620 against Rs. 1,34,669 in the previous year.

CHAPTER III.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

For—

Character of land tenures and system of surveys and settlement,

See—

Report on the Administration of Bengal, 1921-22, Part II.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1931-32.]

Total collection.

19. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 101,443 against 101,160 in the preceding year. Of these 93,932 were permanently settled estates, 4,453 temporarily settled estates and 3,058 estates were under the direct management of Government. The current demand was Rs. 3,03,36,424 against Rs. 3,01,76,036 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 1,60,388 was due to the settlement of newly accreted lands, to resettlement of temporarily settled estates on the termination of existing leases and also to the progressive increase of demand in Government estates. The total realisable demand, including arrears of Rs. 59,75,002, was Rs. 3,63,11,426, out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,75,62,854, being 75·91 per cent. of the total and 90·86 per cent. of the current demand against 82·23 and 92·16 respectively in the previous year. The total outstanding balance amounted to Rs. 86,69,261 or 23·87 per cent. of the total demand. The major portion of the balance is in process of recovery.

Miscellaneous revenue.

20. The total collections of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 9·59 lakhs against Rs. 11·87 lakhs in the preceding year.

Redemption of land revenue.

21. The total number of petty estates and holdings of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year under review was 259 against 272 in the preceding year. The total amount of land revenue redeemed was Rs. 327 and the total price realised was Rs. 9,653, the corresponding figures of the preceding year being Rs. 342 and Rs. 10,190 respectively.

Coercive measures: (a) Sale Law.

22. Defaults and sales during the year numbered 19,920 and 1,177 respectively as against 16,122 and 1,422 respectively in the

preceding year. The number of exemptions from sale under section 18, including those for petty arrears, was 17,757 or 89·14 per cent. of the total number of defaults.

(b) Certificates.

23. The total number of certificate cases instituted during the year, other than those for cesses, was 140,156 against 125,551 in the preceding year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 47·69 against 58·46 in the previous year. In the majority of cases payments were made on the issue of notices or on the attachment of property. Actual sale was necessary in 8,807 cases or 8·8 per cent. of the total number of disposed of cases, 99,984, during the year.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1931-32.]

Condition of the agricultural population.

24. During the year under report the weather conditions were on the whole favourable and the outturn of crops satisfactory, but in July there was an unprecedented flood on the Brahmaputra and Jamuna which rose to record height. The areas chiefly affected were portions of the Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Dacca and Rajshahi districts. Extensive damage was done to standing crops, cattle, houses and property of the people in the affected areas. There were also minor floods in some parts of Malda district, of the sadar and Kandi subdivisions of Murshidabad district, of the Feni subdivision of Noakhali district and of Jalpaiguri district near Barnes Junction. Crops were also injured either by drought, untimely rainfall or insect pests in some places in the districts of Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Noakhali, Tippera and Rajshahi. Prompt and adequate measures were taken by Government, District Boards, private organisations and individuals to relieve distress in the flooded areas. During the year Government distributed Rs. 12,95,885 in agricultural and land improvement loans, advanced Rs. 1,85,300 to District Boards for expenditure on test relief works and also expended Rs. 74,376 as gratuitous relief mainly in the areas affected by floods. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the "Statesman" relief fund contributed Rs. 25,710 for relief in the districts affected by floods. The prices of agricultural produce were even lower than in the preceding year owing to general trade depression. This resulted in a general want of money which was felt especially in the jute-growing districts where the jute crop constituted in the past the main economic support of the peasantry. There was a fall in wages of both skilled and unskilled labour.

General economic conditions.

25. General economic conditions were far from satisfactory. The depression in the coal industry in Burdwan showed no signs

of improvement. The jute mills in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah and the 24-Parganas fared badly and they had to discharge more hands and reduce working hours. The cotton mills, however, were comparatively successful. In some districts rice mills did well. The adverse effect on the hand-loom industry of Santipur and other places of the boycott of foreign yarn continued. The depression in the tea industry in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Chittagong continued. The experiment of cultivation by motor tractor and steel ploughs introduced last year in Nadia was continued with good results. The number of co-operative societies continued to increase in many districts.

Public health.

26. Public health was on the whole good, malaria, kala-azar, cholera and small-pox were present but did not generally assume serious proportions. Various schemes for the supply of good drinking water made satisfactory progress and a large number of tube and masonry wells were sunk in many districts with the help of Government and District Board grants supplemented by local contributions. Anti-malaria societies, health associations and charitable dispensaries did very useful work in many districts.

Other Revenue Works.

Land registration.

27. The number of proprietary interests recorded in the land registration registers was 1,066,425 at the beginning of the year as against 1,072,071 at its close.

Partition.

28. There were 231 partition cases pending at the close of the preceding year, 23 cases were instituted during the year under review and 40 cases were disposed of. Only one special officer was employed on partition work throughout the year in Mymensingh.

Land acquisition.

29. The total area of land acquired for purposes of Government, including State railways and other railways provided with land free of cost by Government, was 1,558·7823 acres at a total cost of Rs. 10,14,914 as against 2,890·3296 acres at a cost of Rs. 15,50,128 in the previous year. The area acquired for all other purposes was 62·9086 acres at a cost of Rs. 6,09,593 as compared with 875·2491 acres at a cost of Rs. 17,16,139 in the previous year.

Loans; Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

30. The outstanding balance of land improvement loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,68,615, while Rs. 6,800 was advanced during the year. The total amount due for collection was Rs. 85,137, of which Rs. 43,742 was realised. The outstanding balance of agricultural loans at the beginning of the year

was Rs. 18,85,473 and Rs. 12,89,085 was advanced during the year. The total amount due for collection was Rs. 21,11,684 and Rs. 5,65,630 was realised.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1931-32.]

31. During the year under report an area of 347·81 acres of waste lands in the district of Jalpaiguri was settled under 24 separate leases at the maximum revenue of Rs. 577. Out of the area of 15·91 square miles of available waste lands in the district of Bakarganj, 4·63 square miles yielded during the year a revenue of Rs. 1,566 under a gorakati lease. The land kept waste in Lata Chapli on the Bay side for protection against storm waves fetched an income of Rs. 754 and an accretion of Tangagiri Chawk fetched Rs. 186 in grazing fees while the parent estate yielded Rs. 2,976 from forest collections. A special scheme, as reported in the previous year, of raiyatwari settlement of 35,010 acres of char lands in Bakarganj was administratively approved by Government. During the period 1926-31 an area of 26,109 acres in all was settled at a cost of Rs. 11,582. A further area of 739 acres has been settled during the year under report on an initial rent of Rs. 443-4 which will ultimately rise to Rs. 886-8. The area to be settled has been found by actual measurement to be 46,711 acres against the original estimate of 35,010 acres. In Faridpur alluvial formations and market lands were settled at a total salami of Rs. 751 and at a revenue of Rs. 247. In Noakhali a raiyatwari settlement of 9,739 acres of char lands was concluded with an immediate revenue of Rs. 3,367. The salami realised in connection with this settlement amounted to Rs. 47,327. An approximate area of 4,500 acres of newly formed land has also been taken up for raiyatwari settlement. There were other minor settlements of char lands in the districts of Pabna and Tippera.

Government Estates.

Number and management.

32. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals and managed by Government, but excluding Calcutta, the Orphanganj Market and the Hastings Estates in the 24-Parganas, was 3,046 with a total annual demand of Rs. 61,53,118 against 2,929 with an aggregate annual demand of Rs. 60,50,350 in the previous year. The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 8·90

against 9·55 in the preceding year. The agricultural demonstrations held in several districts were again encouraging. In Faridpur the third batch of five *bhadralok* youths on the completion of their training at the agricultural farm were allotted lands and money. Some lands were also settled with *bhadraloks* in Noakhali, Bakarganj, Pabna and Nadia. The number of schools in Government estates increased by 188, but the number of pupils decreased by 5,084.

Grant for management and improvement.

33. Out of the total grant for the management and improvement of Government estates in the Presidency, a sum of Rs. 5,53,511 was spent on management and Rs. 1,47,324 on improvements. Of the latter, which represents 2·37 of the current demand, Rs. 80,778 was spent on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 25,038 on tanks and wells, Rs. 30,795 on miscellaneous and agricultural improvements including repairs to roads and bridges, the clearing of jungle and agricultural experiments in the Presidency, while a sum of Rs. 10,713 was spent on the improvements of hats and markets in the Presidency, Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions during the year under review.

Colonisation of the Sundarbans.

34. Of the 22 estates, comprising an area of 178 square miles covered by the colonisation scheme of the Bakarganj Sundarbans, Tengagiri Chawk with an area of 7·249 acres remains to be colonised. The programme of colonisation in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans made fair progress during the year. The total expenditure incurred by Government on reclamation in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj Sundarbans and the total income derived from these areas up to the end of the year under report were as below:—

	Total expenditure.	Total receipts.
	Rs.	Rs.
24-Parganas Sundarbans	5,48,520	6,46,963
Bakarganj Sundarbans	20,80,703	26,66,866

The general health of the people of the 24-Parganas and the Bakarganj Sundarbans was on the whole good during the year except in the third portion of the Estate Saugor Island where cholera broke out in an epidemic form causing several deaths. The people are gradually taking a keen interest in education and the number of schools in the 24-Parganas and the Bakarganj Sundarbans is gradually increasing. The material condition of the people of the Bakarganj Sundarbans showed no improvement.

Surveys.

[Report on the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1931.]

Outturn of the year.

46. The main traverse programme consisted of 583½ square miles in the district of Hooghly falling within 7 police-stations therein and post-pointing traverse of 740½ square miles in the district of Rangpur. The work in the district of Hooghly started in November and in the course of it 1,076 villages and 7 municipalities were traversed. Although frequent sickness amongst the staff delayed the work, sixteen-inch plots were supplied to the settlement offices in due time. The post-pointing work in the "A" block of the Rangpur settlement comprising 9 police-stations was started in February and a full set of co-ordinate values was supplied in due time to the Air Survey Company for preparation of rectified photographs on the scale of sixteen inches to one mile. All the rectified photographs for the area were received from the Company by the scheduled time. In "B" block of Malda 781 square miles were under cadastral survey. It was originally intended to survey 90 per cent. of the entire area by the aerophoto method but owing to the presence of dense jungle along the banks of the rivers Mahananda and Kolindri and of thick mango gardens only 62 per cent. of the area could be done by this method, the remaining 38 per cent. being surveyed by the ordinary methods on photographs. Traverse survey was also done over a scattered area of 44 square miles in Pabna, 143 square miles in Noakhali and 39 square miles in Dacca in connection with the land revenue revisional settlement operations in those districts. Besides these, the preliminary traverse of 131 square miles of the Teesta river in Rangpur, and the traverse of 13 tea estates covering 38 square miles in Jalpaiguri and 22 square miles of the Mungpu cinchona plantations in Darjeeling were carried out.

Land Records and Settlement.

[Annual Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Bengal for the year ending 30th September 1931.]

General.

47. The total area for which a record of rights has now been completed is 53,797 square miles which represents about 83 per cent. of the area to which the Bengal Tenancy Act applies.

Major settlement.

48. Major settlement operations were in progress in 6 districts. The operations in Malda and Burdwan were in full swing and those in Murshidabad-Birbhum, 24-Parganas and the revisional settlement in Chittagong were in their closing stages.

Murshidabad-Birbhum settlement.

49. The programme for the year consisted of the printing and final publication of the records of the diara block, pending

recovery of the cost of survey and settlement, case work and further diara resumption. The total computed demand on account of the cost of survey and settlement for the two districts is Rs. 32,48,424, of which the realisation up to 30th September 1931 was Rs. 31,03,655, a sum of Rs. 4,39,942 being realised during the year. The total number of cases filed in these districts was 33,311 under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, 3,592 under section 106 and 1,769 under section 115(B). The total number of tenancies dealt with under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, in the year was 10,797. The diara proceedings pending at the close of the last year were all completed during the year. As a result of diara proceedings in the two districts 7,128 acres of surplus alluvial accretions were resumed and assessed to a total revenue of Rs. 20,764 a year.

Chittagong settlement.

50. The programme for the year consisted of (1) recovery of the cost of survey and settlement in C and D blocks, (2) case work in 10 police-stations, and (3) settlement of land revenue in the municipal areas of Chittagong town and the resettlement of kayemi noabad taluks. A sum of Rs. 2,43,258, was realised during the year as the cost of survey and settlement due from the landlords and tenants, of which Rs. 2,40,730 comprised voluntary payments. A sum of Rs. 49,392 recoverable for the area under operation yet remains to be realised, the total computed demand being Rs. 6,05,053. The number of tenancies dealt with during the year under section 105 and under section 106, Bengal Tenancy Act, was 16,986 and 119 respectively leaving the balance to be dealt with in the succeeding year. In Chittagong town Government possess 1,505·358 acres of land in proprietary right, of which 606·264 acres are agricultural and 899·094 acres non-agricultural lands there being 483 taluks, 19 ijaras and 435 jotes in this area. In the present settlement the jotes and taluks which are still agricultural in character had their rents reassessed under the Bengal Tenancy Act, while those which are still non-agricultural have been assessed on the basis of the capital value of the lands. Jotes which were originally raiyati but have now lost their raiyati character have been left out of the programme to be dealt with by the Collector of the district, while taluks of this nature have been assessed under Regulation VII of 1822.

24-Parganas settlement.

51. This settlement was in its closing stage. The programme for the year consisted of the final scrutiny of the records of the last block, mapping, printing, recovery of costs, case work, diara resumption in some of the rivers and the settlement of land revenue of a number of Sundarbans and other estates. Fourteen presses were at work most of the year, the total number of interests printed being 345,797. The total computed demand for the

cost of survey and settlement of the area under operation is Rs. 28,67,610 and the recovery effected to the end of the year under review is Rs. 22,20,709, a sum of Rs. 5,38,046 which consisted mostly of voluntary payments being realised during the year. The total number of tenancies pending at the end of last year to be dealt with under section 105 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was 18,899 and 244 under section 106 of the Act. New institutions during the year were made in respect of 6,303 tenancies under section 105 and 1,972 under section 106. At the end of the year 5,093 tenancies under section 105 and 1,400 under section 106 remained pending for disposal in the succeeding year. Three resumption proceedings pending at the end of the previous year were completed and some further resumption of alluvial accretions along the Hooghly river was undertaken. Up to date a net increase of Rs. 978-8 in revenue has been secured by these proceedings. The jamabandi programme originally consisted of the revision of land revenue of 74 estates in which 19 Sundarbans estates and one Government estate, which have since fallen due for resettlement have been included. During the year under report revision of land revenue was completed in 11 estates resulting in an increase of revenue from Rs. 22,695 to Rs. 45,516 a year. In the year under report Government declared their policy with regard to the reassessment of the Sundarban estates held under the grant rules of 1879 and, in accordance with the Government orders which now enable the lessees to get 35 to 50 per cent. of the assets of their respective grants, the revenue of 22 such estates which had previously been settled had to be revised. The result of the revision has been to decrease the annual revenue of these estates from Rs. 1,11,641 to Rs. 83,573.

Burdwan Settlement.

52. The programme of work in this settlement was (1) cadastral survey and the preliminary record writing of D block, (2) attestation of the records, disposal of objections, (3) final janch of C block records, (4) printing of records of B block, (5) recovery of cost in A block and in a part of B block, (6) diara resumption in the Damodar river and (7) resettlement of estates—mostly resumed chaukidari chakran lands. The cadastral survey of D block covered an area of 588 square miles. The survey, khanapuri and bujharat of this area were completed by the beginning of August. Six hundred and seventy-five square miles were taken up for attestation. The total number of interests attested was 410,463 giving an incidence of 608 per square mile. The programme was completed in the first week of July. The number of objections filed against entries in the draft record of rights was 20,731 all of which were disposed of. The total number of interests printed was 367,025, of which about 9,000 were of the

24-Parganas settlement. Out of a total computed demand of Rs. 4,58,684 on account of the cost of survey and settlement from A block a sum of Rs. 3,97,685 was recovered, while from B block a sum of Rs. 22,661 was recovered during the year. Resumption proceedings on the river Damodar were in progress. Jamabandi of 13 estates was completed during the year and another 13 estates awaited confirmation of their rent rolls by superior revenue authorities.

Malda Settlement.

53. The programme of this settlement consisted of the attestation of the draft records, disposal of objections, final janch of the area surveyed in the previous year and preparation of the preliminary draft records for the remaining area of the district. The total number of tenancies attested was 200,000; the total number of attestation disputes was 14,178 of which 6,242 related to mokarari claims and 2,886 were rent disputes. The number of objections under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, was 7,747, of which 1,595 related to rent, 3,227 related to status and 2,925 to other entries in the record. The survey of the cadastral area of 781 square miles was completed—62 per cent. by aerophoto method and the rest by ordinary methods.

Minor operations.

54. Minor operations were carried on in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Rajshahi, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Tippera, Noakhali, Darjeeling (Mongpu), Khulna, Burdwan, Dacca, Pabna and Bogra. The programme in Bakarganj consists of the resettlement of 620 estates, of which 360 were completed last year and 118 in the year under report, leaving a balance of 112 still to be completed. As a result of revision of land revenue of 478 estates completed up to date in Bakarganj, an increase in revenue of Rs. 1,74,203 has been secured, while in Noakhali and Tippera the increase in revenue from the estates resettled during the year has been Rs. 6,577 and Rs. 5,961 a year respectively.

CHAPTER IV—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Course of Legislation.

55. Thirteen Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1931-32:—

Acts passed.

(1) *The Bengal State Aid to Industries Act, 1931* (*Bengal Act III of 1931*), to obtain statutory power to enable State aid in the shape of loans, guarantees, the provision of a hire-purchase system, etc., to be given for the purpose of encouraging cottage industries and industries on a small scale.

(2) *The Bengal Mining Settlements (Amendment) Act, 1931* (*Bengal Act IV of 1931*), to confer on the Asansol Mines Board of Health power to make by-laws and to make the amounts payable by a mine under the Act a first charge on its profits.

(3) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1931* (*Bengal Act V of 1931*), to remove certain difficulties in the working of some of the sections of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, and to provide for certain other matters of a non-controversial nature. This was a non-official measure.

(4) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1931* (*Bengal Act VI of 1931*), to alter the definition of edible oil and edible fat so as to enable the Corporation to control effectively the adulteration of mustard oil.

This was also a non-official measure.

(5) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1931* (*Bengal Act VII of 1931*), to give certain necessary powers to those municipalities in which a sewerage system is in existence.

This was also a non-official measure.

(6) *The Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Act, 1931* (*Bengal Act VIII of 1931*), to introduce into the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust the procedure of recoupment through betterment fees, as an alternative to the existing procedure of acquisition and exemption, and to repeal section 14 of the Schedule to the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911, with a view to make the provisions of section 49 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, applicable to all acquisitions under the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911.

(7) *The Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1932 (Bengal Act I of 1932)*, to provide for the taxation of motor vehicles and for the expenditure on roads of the proceeds of this taxation. It supersedes the existing powers of the Calcutta Corporation to tax such vehicles and in return provides for the payment to the Corporation of an annual sum based on the receipts of taxation of motor vehicles by the Corporation during the year 1929-30.

(8) *The Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement (Amendment) Act, 1931 (Bengal Act II of 1932)*, to repeal sub-section (*1*) of section 15 of the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920, which requires an applicant to deposit or give security for the cost of the work before the work is undertaken.

This was also a non-official measure.

(9) *The Garden Reach Municipality Act, 1932 (Bengal Act III of 1932)*, to effect the separation of the Garden Reach area, excluding the Dock area, from the limits of the Corporation of Calcutta and to restore it to the position of an independent municipality under the Bengal Municipal Act.

(10) *The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932 (Bengal Act IV of 1932)*, to prolong the provisions of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1931 (Ordinance IX of 1931), which was due to expire on the 28th April 1932. It also extended the provisions relating to power of search and fixing of allowances to persons under restraint.

(11) *The Elephants Preservation (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act V of 1932)*, to make an express provision to validate the existing practice in this Presidency of proclaiming wild elephants which have become dangerous to human life and property and offering a reward for killing them.

(12) *The Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration (Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act VI of 1932)*, to repeal section 10 of the Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1876, relating to gratuities voluntarily tendered to a Marriage Registrar.

(13) *The Bengal Primary Education (Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act VII of 1932)*, to enable municipalities to apply for permission to make primary education for girls between 6 to 10 years of age compulsory in urban areas.

Government Bills pending.

56. The following Government Bills were pending at the close of the year:—

(1) *The Bengal Opium Smoking Bill, 1931.*—The intention of the Local Government in introducing this Bill is to register

persons who are already addicted to opium smoking and to permit such persons only to indulge in the practice, which will have the ultimate effect of stamping out this vice with the present generation of addicts. The Bill was introduced in Council on the 21st July 1931. A motion to circulate it was carried. On 17th February 1932 the Bill was referred to a Select Committee.

(2) *The Opium (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1931,* to bring the Indian Opium Act, 1878, into greater conformity with modern requirements in respect of those matters which fall within the sphere of the provincial legislature. The Bill was introduced in Council on the 17th February 1932, and on the same day a motion to circulate it was agreed to.

(3) *The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1932,* to give effect to those recommendations of the Conference of Chairmen of District Boards held in Darjeeling in October 1930, which have been adopted by Government and to remove practical difficulties in the working of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act. It was introduced in Council on the 17th February 1932 and was referred to a Select Committee.

(4) *The Bengal Rhinoceros Preservation Bill, 1932,* to provide for adequate protection for wild rhinoceroses in Bengal against illicit killing on account of the high prices offered for their horns. The Bill was introduced in Council on the 31st March 1931 and at the same meeting partially considered when the year to which this report relates expired.

Non-official members' Bills pending.

57. The following non-official members' Bills were pending at the close of the year:—

(1) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1931,* by Maulvi Abul Kasem to secure increased representation for Mussalmans in the Corporation of Calcutta.

(2) *The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1931,* by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai to empower district boards to make grants to the public libraries and reading rooms within their jurisdiction.

(3) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1931,* by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai to provide for the levy of a tax on motor vehicles.

(4) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1931,* by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai to secure separate representation for the Kalighat area at present forming part of the Bhowanipur

ward of the Corporation of Calcutta. A motion to recirculate the Bill for the purpose of eliciting public opinion was agreed to on the 5th February 1932.

(5) *The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1931*, by Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh to remove certain hardships in the execution of rent decrees and in suits for enhancement of rent under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, with reference to guardian fees. The Bill was introduced on 24th July 1931 and a motion to circulate was carried on a division.

(6) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1931*, by Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick for better representation of wards 28 and 29 on the Corporation of Calcutta. The Bill was introduced on the 24th July 1931 and a motion to circulate the Bill was agreed to.

(7) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1931*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai to remove sex-disqualification in municipalities. It was introduced on the 24th July 1931 and a motion to circulate it was agreed to.

(8) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1931*, by Rai Bahadur Satyendra Kumar Das to remove certain defects and disabilities in connection with the working of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884. It was introduced on the 24th July 1931 and at the same meeting a motion to circulate it was agreed to.

(9) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1931*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai with a view to permit union boards to undertake small irrigation projects and make grants to public libraries, reading rooms and dispensaries, was introduced on the 24th July 1931 and on the same date a motion to circulate the Bill was carried. It was referred to a Select Committee on the 5th February 1932.

(10) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment No. II) Bill, 1931*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai to supplement the income of municipalities by the levy of a tax on trades, professions and callings. It was introduced on the 24th July 1931 and a motion to circulate it was agreed to.

(11) *The Calcutta Rent Bill, 1932*, by Mr. P. Banerji to afford statutory help to monthly tenants in Calcutta against uncertain and precarious tenancy and against extortionate demands for increase of rent. It was introduced on the 22nd February 1932.

(12) *The Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic Bill, 1932*, by Babu Jatindra Nath Basu to provide consolidated legislation for the whole of Bengal which will give power to check the evil

of commercialised vice. It was introduced on the 22nd February 1932 and a motion to circulate it was agreed to.

(13) *The Bengal Pasture Bill, 1932*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai to secure the right of pasturage in lands formerly used as such but since encroached upon for cultivation or otherwise. It was introduced on the 22nd February 1932 and a motion to circulate it was agreed to.

(14) *The Bengal Disorders Compensation Bill, 1932*, by Rai Bahadur Satyendra Kumar Das to compensate persons who have suffered from the acts of unlawful assemblies in Calcutta and the rest of Bengal. It was introduced on the 22nd February 1932 and a motion to circulate it was agreed to.

Non-official members' Bills lost.

58. (1) *The Bengal Jute Bill (II), 1930*, by Dr. Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta to provide for the control and regulation of the production and marketing of jute. The member's motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee was lost on a division.

(2) *The Bengal Cattle Bill, 1931*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai to provide for the protection of cattle generally. The member's motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee was put and lost.

(3) *The Bengal Patni Sale Law (Amendment) Bill, 1931*, by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, to provide facility for annulling sales held under the Bengal Patni Sale Law Regulation, 1819, was referred to a Select Committee. The report of the Select Committee on the Bill was presented and the Bill considered, but Government having opposed the member's motion it was declared lost on a division on the 5th February 1932.

Non-official member's Bill deemed to have been withdrawn.

59. *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1930*, by Dr. Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta to separate the Garden Reach area from the limits of the Corporation of Calcutta and to reconstitute the Garden Reach Municipality. On the passing of the Garden Reach Municipality Act, 1932, this Bill was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Non-official member's Bill failed at introduction.

60. On the 22nd February 1932 Dr. Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta moved a motion to introduce his Bengal Jute Bill, 1932, which was defeated on a division.

The Bengal Cess (amendment) Bill, 1932, by Babu Khetter Mohan Ray.

61. Notice for the introduction of a Bill to make section 52A of the Cess Act, 1880, applicable to Eastern Bengal districts was given by Babu Khetter Mohan Ray, but when the motion was called on the 22nd February 1932 the member did not move it.

CHAPTER V.—POLICE, JUSTICE, JAILS AND REGISTRATION.

Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1931.]

Eastern Frontier Rifles.

62. The Eastern Frontier Rifles maintained their reputation as a unit reliable in any emergency, and the work of the detachment sent to Chittagong district was invaluable.

Recruitment and health of the force.

63. The number of constables recruited was 2,159 against 1,899 in 1930, while the total number of vacancies at the end of the year was 56 against 146, 206 and 377 in the three previous years. The only force of additional police under section 15 of the Police Act was one of 120 men quartered in certain areas in the Chittagong district. The additional police employed elsewhere at the commencement of the year were withdrawn, some on the expiry of the period for which they were sanctioned, others as a result of the Irwin-Gandhi agreement of 5th March. An important addition to the range reserves of armed police was made during the year in the shape of a temporary force of 945 constables with their complement of officers, in order to meet the disturbed conditions which resulted from the civil disobedience movement. The additional force of 500 men mentioned in last year's resolution was merged in this force. It is regrettable that the experiment of enrolling Namasudras in the armed branch has not so far given satisfactory results, but it is being continued. Casualties showed a decrease under all heads and the percentage fell from 7·6 in 1930 to 5·7 in the year under review, the lowest figure recorded since 1912. It is satisfactory to note that there was a marked drop in the number of resignations and that there was again an increase in the number of constables of three years' service and over, there being at the close of the year 15,969 such or nearly 500 more than in the previous year. Admission into hospitals increased from 13,244 in 1930 to 14,390 in the present year, partly owing to extra work and extra strain, partly to men having to be kept for prolonged periods in unhealthy places often in temporary and unsuitable quarters, and partly owing to indifferent housing conditions. It is regrettable that housing conditions cannot be improved at present owing to financial stringency.

Discipline.

64. In spite of the extra duties imposed on the force during the year, its discipline was maintained at a high standard. There was a marked decrease in the number of officers and men judicially punished as well as in the number dealt with departmentally. The number of complaints instituted against the police by private individuals fell from 368 in the previous year to 253 and only 18 cases ended in conviction.

Crime statistics.

65. There was a decrease in the number of cognisable and true cases, but the number of serious offences against persons and property showed an increase of 1,156. There were 1,212 cases of rioting against 1,608 last year, but the number of cases of murder, robbery and dacoity increased. This increase in serious crimes is attributed to the distress resulting from trade depression and to the civil disobedience and other movements which created a spirit of lawlessness among the people. Thefts of arms remained at a high figure and showed a slight increase over last year's figure, the largest number being reported from Mymensingh.

Criminal tribes.

66. The conduct of the inmates of the Karwal Nat Settlement at Saidpur was good on the whole, and the industrial school for children at Nilphamari continued its good work, but the subsequent placing and employment of the children still present a very difficult problem.

Working of the rural police.

67. Efforts to seduce them from their allegiance continued at least in some districts during the year, and economic and other causes combined too often to make the payment of chaukidars' salaries irregular, yet in spite of these adverse circumstances the rural police remained as a whole loyal. Several instances of bravery and devotion to duty are recorded, notably that of a dafadar in Dacca, who though mortally wounded in arresting a notorious criminal, held on to his man till help arrived, and a chaukidar in Midnapore, who was killed while attempting to arrest a man in the act of committing dacoity. It is disappointing to read that in spite of all efforts little real improvement was achieved in the matter of securing co-operation between the police and union boards in exercising control over known criminals and the patrolling of affected areas.

Revolutionary crime.

68. During 1931 terrorist crimes and activities were a source of continuous anxiety and no less than 67 outrages were committed together with 9 murders including those of Messrs. Peddie, Garlick and Stevens of the Indian Civil Service, and Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah, Inspector of Police. The seriousness of the position led to the promulgation in October of Bengal Ordinance IX of 1931, which extended the scope of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930, so as to permit of action being taken

against members and helpers of terrorist associations. To deal with the situation in Chittagong, where a considerable and very active body of absconders of the raid case remained at large, Ordinance XI of 1931 was promulgated on 1st December, which gave wider powers to the executive and also provided for more speedy trial of cases connected with the revolutionary conspiracy. To implement the Ordinance a body of regular troops and increased police forces were drafted into the district.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1931.]

69. The sanctioned strength of the Calcutta Police at the close of the year was 5,658, a decrease of 89 as compared with last year's figure. The number of resignations was 18 against 51 in the previous year. There was a decrease of 5 in the number of vacancies at the end of the year, and the revised rates of pay continue to attract a better type of recruit to the force. In spite of the continuous strain placed upon all ranks owing to the civil disobedience movement and its after effects, there was a further improvement in the health of the force during the year, the average daily percentage of the sick falling from 1·92 to 1·52. Strength.

70. The condition of the police buildings in the suburban areas is far from satisfactory and the necessity for their early improvement is urged. It is regretted that improvement in this direction should still be held up owing to financial stringency. Housing.

71. A good standard of discipline continued to be maintained and the small number of cases in which judicial punishments were inflicted on members of the force, or in which orders of dismissal or degradation were passed, is noticeable. Discipline.

72. There was a substantial all round decrease in the total number of cognizable cases reported to the police during the year. The marked fall in the number of rioting cases, which was 18 against 103 in the previous year, was due to the calling off of the civil disobedience movement. The Detective Department as usual rendered valuable assistance to the local police and investigated a number of difficult cases very successfully. The smart work done by the special detective staff of the Port Police in detecting a number of arms smuggling cases and in Crime statistics.

arresting a number of terrorists with unlicensed firearms in their possession is particularly satisfactory.

Revolutionary crime, seditious speeches and meetings.

73. Terrorist activities continued throughout the year. Mr. R. R. Garlick, District and Sessions Judge, 24-Parganas, was murdered in his court-room, an attempt was made on the life of Mr. Villiers, President of the European Association, Bengal, and one Ashutosh Neogi, who had given important evidence for the Crown in an armed dacoity case, was murdered. As in the previous year, the Indian press not only continued its support of the Congress but also with a few exceptions its campaign of eulogy of political murderers. It is significant that a representative and responsible body like the Corporation of Calcutta passed a resolution expressing its "sense of grief" at the execution of Dinesh Gupta, one of the murderers of Colonel Simpson, Inspector-General of Prisons. There were a number of prosecutions for seditious speeches and no less than 75 publications were proscribed. The circulation of communist literature continued.

Public order.

74. Throughout the year picketing was continued with varying intensity and there were frequent hartals, processions and public meetings in furtherance of the Congress campaign against Government, while the difficulties of the situation were in no way diminished by the Irwin-Gandhi agreement which tied the hands of the authorities but was utilised by Congress as an opportunity to reorganise and prepared for fresh activities. The most disquieting feature of the situation was the constant extolling of political assassins as martyrs and heroes by the press and nationalist leaders, while on the other side the murders themselves and the way in which murderers were eulogised naturally evoked intense feelings of indignation especially among the European community. Added to this was the general lawlessness which was an aftermath of the civil disobedience movement. The burden which in this tense political atmosphere was placed on the shoulders of the police in 1931 was thus a heavy one, and the steadfastness, loyalty, courage and devotion displayed by all ranks of the force in the discharge of their duties in such difficult circumstances was greatly appreciated.

Traffic.

75. The general trade depression was reflected in the returns of the Motor Vehicles Branch. The registration of private cars alone dropped by one-third. Only 46 new taxi-cabs were registered in 1931 as compared with 122 and 263 in the two previous years and only 106 new motor omnibuses as compared with 168 and 226. It is satisfactory that considerably fewer cases under the Motor Vehicles Act were pending at the close of the year than there were in 1930.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1931.]

76. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 14 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Twenty-one Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judges were employed for varying periods in 16 districts and decided 368 cases. Eighteen temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed in different districts on sessions work. Judicial staff.

77. The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 472 stipendiary and 556 honorary magistrates. These figures represent a decrease of 7 and an increase of 1, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Three special magistrates were employed one each at Midnapore, Rangpur and Noakhali for 25, 21 and 84 days, respectively, during the year. They decided 38, 2 and 194 cases, respectively. Of the 472 stipendiary magistrates, 281 exercised first, 157 second and 34 third class powers. There were 105 benches of magistrates constituted from among 491 honorary magistrates in the mufassal. Of these, 79 were independent and 26 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act. Magisterial staff.

78. The number of offences reported during the year combined with the number pending from the previous year was 371,114 against 392,402 in 1930. Offences reported.

79. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 315,664 were found to be true, and of these 273,719 were brought to trial. Cases found to be true.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

80. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 127,400 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 146,319 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal. The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the municipal magistrates, was 4,464 more than in 1930. There was an increase in the number of cases under special and local laws and a decrease under the Penal Code. Under the latter head there was a noticeable decrease in offences affecting public health and an increase in cases of hurt. Number of cases.

Results of trials.

81. The percentage of convictions before stipendiary magistrates amounted to 83·1 and before honorary magistrates sitting singly to 98·8.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

Cases disposed of.

82. Including cases committed to the sessions 146,201 cases were disposed of during the year. The disposals were distributed as follows:—

District Magistrates	23
Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates	121,866
Honorary Magistrates	15,445
Benches of Magistrates	8,592
Special Magistrates	234

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 41 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 64, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Howrah (18).

Results of trials.

83. In the cases finally disposed of by magistrates, 216,372 persons were accused. Of these 108,043 or 49·9 per cent. were convicted and 108,329 or 50·1 per cent. were acquitted or discharged.

Punishments.

84. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment	18,512
Fine or forfeiture	85,731
Whipping	89

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 9,49,194. Rupees 5,59,149 was realised, of which Rs. 1,10,915 was paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

85. The total number of miscellaneous cases decided during the year was 6,868 against 8,169 in the previous year.

Witnesses.

86. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 356,631 as compared with 359,589 in 1930. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 140,703 or 28·3 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. The percentage in the preceding year was 30·2. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance fell from Rs. 3,29,465 in 1930 to Rs. 2,92,848 in 1931.

87. The reports of the 20 districts in which the union benches have been established show that the benches continue to do good work and are gradually becoming more popular. Their constitution is also viewed with greater appreciation by the public. Relief is said to have been afforded to magistrates by these benches to a considerable extent in some districts and to a lesser degree in others. The total number of benches established and in existence was 987 against 888 in the previous year. The number of offences dealt with by these benches was 60,279 showing an increase of 8,392 on that of 1930. Union benches.

III.—Courts of Sessions.

88. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of session was 1,810 against 1,755 in the previous year. Cases disposed of.

89. There were 8,035 persons, or 1,266 more than in 1930, under trial before the courts of session. Of the 5,609 persons tried, 2,614 or 46·6 per cent. were convicted and 2,831 were acquitted or discharged, while the cases of 164 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Results of trials.

90. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session:— Punishments.

Death	14
Transportation or penal servitude	82
Imprisonment	2,477
Fine or forfeiture	147
Whipping	6

In addition to these sentences, 269 persons were required to give security. Fines to the amount of Rs. 33,780 were imposed, while the realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 3,525.

91. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 37,961. Of these 26,451 were examined and 11,510 discharged without examination. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 1,32,799 as compared with Rs. 1,31,626 in 1930. Witnesses.

92. The number of cases disposed of was 59 against 71 in the previous year. Altogether 88 persons were tried of whom 39 were convicted and 49 acquitted. Cases disposed of in the High Court Sessions.

Results of trials.

81. The percentage of convictions before stipendiary magistrates amounted to 83·1 and before honorary magistrates sitting singly to 98·8.

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89. There were 8,035 persons, or 1,266 more than in 1930, under trial before the courts of session. Of the 5,609 persons tried, 2,614 or 46·6 per cent. were convicted and 2,831 were acquitted or discharged, while the cases of 164 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Results of trials.

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APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Number of appeals.

93. At the opening of the year 145 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 868 appeals were preferred and 895 were decided leaving 118 pending at its close.

Results of appeals.

94. Five hundred and ninety-one appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 492, modified in 38, and reversed in 30 instances, while 11 cases were remanded for retrial. Three hundred and four appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 269, modified in 14 and reversed in 18 instances, while 3 others were otherwise disposed of. Eight appeals against orders of acquittal were preferred by the Local Government of which 5 were confirmed, one reversed, one sent back for retrial while another was otherwise disposed of.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions courts.

95. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session was 4,356 against 4,594 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 8,140 persons were concerned. The appeals of 2,104 persons or 25·8 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 2,573 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,403 obtained an alteration of sentence; and 1,925 were acquitted. The cases of 135 appellants were otherwise disposed of.

Magistrates' courts.

96. In the courts of magistrates, 3,139 appeals were decided against 3,697 in the previous year. In the appeals decided 5,704 persons were concerned. Of these the appeals of 817 were rejected, and the sentences of 2,179 whose appeals were admitted were confirmed, making a total of 2,996 wholly unsuccessful appellants or 52·5 per cent. Of the remainder, 882 appellants or 15·4 per cent. obtained an alteration of the sentence passed on them, 1,738 or 30·4 per cent. their total annulment and the cases of 88 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1930, the results were more favourable to appellants.

GENERAL.

97. Compared with the figures of 1930, there was a decrease in the number of criminal cases disposed of by magistrates in the mufassal and an increase in the number disposed of by magistrates in the Presidency town. There was a decrease in the appellate and revisional work disposed of by magistrates in the mufassal. In the courts of session there was an increase in the outturn of original work but a decrease in that of appellate and revisional work. In the High Court there was a general decrease in the criminal work disposed of. Forty persons (34 in the Presidency town and 1 each in Midnapore, Murshidabad, Jessore, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Noakhali) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these 4 were acquitted, 21 convicted and 15 remained under trial at the close of the year.

Receipts and charges.

98. After debiting as usual to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 40, 86,151. Of this amount, Rs. 23,18,771 was for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,46,794 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,67,988 for process-servers, Rs. 7,02,090 for other establishments, and Rs. 7,50,508 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 17,65,348. Of this amount, Rs. 8,35,492 was under fines, Rs. 1,19,363 under process fees, Rs. 1,87,444 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 5,28,422 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above, and Rs. 94,627 miscellaneous receipts. Compared with the figures of 1930, the receipts show a decrease of over Rs. 4,34,000 and the charges of over Rs. 1,09,000.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1931.]

Judicial staff.

99. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1931 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 14 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 44 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge and two the powers of a Munsif. Eighteen temporary Additional District Judges, 22

temporary Additional Subordinate Judges and one temporary Additional Munsif were employed for varying periods in different districts.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits for disposal.

100. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1931 was 4,546 against 5,650 in the previous year. Of 2,464 suits instituted during 1931, 1,495 were for money or movable property, 308 were mortgage suits and 197 were for immovable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 3,25,78,371 as compared with Rs. 3,75,50,831 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

101. The number of suits decided in 1931 was 2,574. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,972. The number pending at the close of the year was less than the number pending at the close of the previous year by 97. There were 545 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 40 on the figures of the previous year.

Probates, letters of administration, etc.

102. At the commencement of the year 121 applications for probates, letters of administration and succession cerificates were pending and 452 fresh applications were made during the year. Of these 504 were disposed of and 69 remained pending at its close.

Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act, IX of 1899.

103. The number of awards filed and of applications made in execution thereof were 118 and 109, respectively.

Insolvency cases.

104. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 846 respectively, while the number instituted during the year was 284. Of the 1,293 cases for disposal 239 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 120 and the insolvents obtaining relief in 119 cases. There were also 2,003 applications of a miscellaneous character disposed of during the year.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

105. Eight appeals to the Privy Council from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and four appeals were admitted during the year. Of these seven were disposed of by the Privy Council and five remained pending at the close of the year.

Financial results.

106. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including, under the head expenditure, the salaries of the Judges:—

Year.		Receipts.*	Receipts.†	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1929	.. ..	82,83,942	9,57,511	6,89,194
1930	.. ..	26,77,513	9,24,709	6,54,710
1931	.. ..	14,01,458	7,59,758	6,54,422

*Including the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.

†Excluding the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration and succession certificates.

II.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

Kasba munsifi.

107. The munsifi at Kasba in the district of Tippera was abolished with effect from the 11th October 1931, and was incorporated within the local limits of the Brahmanbaria munsifi of the same district.

Original suits instituted.

108. The number of suits instituted in 1931 was 588,127, a decrease of 34,057 on the figures of the previous year.

Local distribution.

109. There was a decrease in the number of suits instituted in all the districts except Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Murshidabad. The decrease was most marked in Tippera, Rangpur, Pabna-Bogra, Jessore and Faridpur. It occurred in all classes of suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (48,917), where the number of title suits (3,198) was the greatest in the province.

Number of suits disposed of.

110. The number of suits disposed of was 614,481, a decrease of 53,644 on the figures of 1930. Of the total number 596,827 were disposed of by Munsifs, 11,281 by Subordinate Judges, 6,112 by Small Cause Court Judges and 261 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show a decrease under all grades of courts.

Results of suits decided.

111. Of the suits disposed of during the year 61,403 were decided without trial, 489,790 without contest and 63,288 on contest. Of the 63,288 suits decided on contest, 550 were disposed of on reference to arbitration. Of the remainder 53,075 or 84·6 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs, 9,663 or 15·4 per cent. in favour of the defendants.

Applications for retrial.

112. The number of applications for an order to set aside an *ex parte* judgment or a judgment on default, preferred during the year, was 15,615. Of these 7,705 or 49·3 per cent. were successful.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

113 The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs fell from 645,362 to 596,827, a decrease of 48,535. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,528 against 2,667 in 1930. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 24·7 per cent. of the total.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

114. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 11,281, a decrease of 4,616 on the figures of the previous year. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 6,100 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 5,181. Of these 30·6 per cent. and 13·3 per cent. respectively were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure showed a decrease and in that under the Small Cause Court procedure an increase, as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

115. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 6,112 original suits, of which 776 were contested or 172 less than in the previous year.

Pending suits.

116. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 157,392 against 174,474 in the previous year. Of the pending suits 13,481 had been pending for more than a year, 53,240 for more than six months and 30,008 for more than three months, representating a decrease in the arrears for each period. Of the suits pending over one year 9,793 were in the courts of Munsifs and 3,688 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease of 1,135 and 469, respectively, as compared with 1930. About 53·8 per cent. of these suits were, however, pending for final decree.

Miscellaneous cases.

117. Excluding transfers 118,333 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature were before the courts for disposal, against 115,691 in the previous year. Of these 97,668 were disposed of. One hundred and thirty-three being applications for probates and letters of administration were treated as suits on becoming contested, and 20,532 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of 43,495 were decided without trial, 39,971 without contest and 14,202 on contest or on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases 750 were pending over a year, the 24-Parganas being responsible for the largest number (254).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

118. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1931 and the number pending at its close were 24,220, 24,932 and 4,084 respectively. The figures show an increase of 315, 127 and 70, respectively, as

compared with the previous year. Sixteen applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899). The increase in institutions was spread over all classes of suits, excepting those valued at Rs. 1,000 and above. The number of suits the value of which could not be estimated in money was smaller than in the previous year.

Mode of disposal.

119. Of the suits disposed of 841 were decided without trial, 20,328 without contest and 3,763 on contest or upon reference to arbitration. Of the 4,084 suits pending at the close of the year 701 were over three months' old, against 591 in 1930.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under section 15 of th Letters Patent.

120. One hundred and fifteen appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 83 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 117 were decided and 81 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was the same as in 1930. On the Appellate Side 30 such appeals were filed during the year and 10 were pending at its commencement. Of these 25 were decided and 15 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

121. The following statement shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam.

	Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Revived and received by transfer during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Pending at the close of the year.
First appeals—					
From original decrees ..	791	303	5	(a) 319	780
From original orders ..	285	292	1	274	304
From orders of the Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	1	9	..	2	8
Second appeals—					
From appellate decrees ..	4,375	3,215	3	(b) 3,087	4,506
From appellate orders ..	144	210	1	185	170
Total ..	5,596	4,029	10	3,867	5,768

(a) Including 45 Will cases.

(b) Of these 1,412 were decided by a single Judge.

Results of appeals.

122. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court affecting District Judges, Subordinate Judges and Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923:—

	Affirmed.			Modified or reversed.		
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Appeals from—						
Original decrees ..	93	77	..	17	52	..
Appellate decrees ..	456	974	..	95	215	..
Miscellaneous appeals ..	94	94	1	27	36	..

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals for disposal.

123. Excluding transfers, the number of appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1931 was 31,518 against 35,687 in 1930. The number of appeals instituted during the year was 13,509 against 16,635 in the previous year. Of these 6,250 were in title suits, 5,485 in rent suits and 1,774 in suits for money or movables. The numbers show a decrease of 1,528, 1,385 and 213, respectively.

Appeals disposed of.

124. The number of appeals decided was 16,474. There was a decrease of 1,283 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges and 396 in the number decided by Subordinate Judges as compared with the previous year. The decrease in disposal was spread over eleven districts and was largest in Khulna (728) followed by Mymensingh (638), Midnapore (618) and Pabna-Bogra (509). On the other hand there was a noticeable increase in Chittagong (551) which was due to the fact that a Second Additional Subordinate Judge was solely employed on appellate work for a part of the year.

Appeals pending.

125. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 15,044 and was less than that of 1930 by 2,490. The number of appeals over one year old rose from 3,946 to 4,016. Hooghly as in the previous year was responsible for the largest number; viz., 626.

Results of appeals.

126. The results on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year were as follows:—In 8,299 cases or 50·4 per cent. of the whole the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 2,398 cases or 14·6 per cent. it was modified; and in 2,768 cases or 16·8 per cent. it was reversed. Six hundred and ninety-six or 4·2 per cent. were remanded and 2,313 or 14 per cent. were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are, on the whole, less favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

GENERAL.

127. The number of appeals preferred, disposed of and pending in the lower appellate courts was smaller than in the previous year. The number of year-old suits pending at the close of the year was smaller and that of appeals larger than in the previous year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court, the institutions were more and the disposals less than in the previous year and consequently there was an increase in the pending file. Union courts are reported generally to be viewed with appreciation by the public and to be affording some relief to the munsifs in the majority of the districts in which they are established. The total number of courts was 843 against 776 in the previous year.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

128. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,72,42,102 showing a decrease of Rs. 24,47,630 and the charges amounted to Rs. 83,51,831 showing a decrease of Rs. 4,69,754 on those of 1930. Including the amount realised on account of duty, on probate, etc.

		Rs.
In the High Court	.. .. ..	8,24,431*
In other courts	.. .. ..	2,64,777*
	Total ..	10,89,208*

*The figures are for the financial year.

the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 88,90,271, and excluding this item to Rs. 78,01,063.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

Receipts.

	Rs.
In Stamps—	
Process fees	20,84,072
Other fees	1,42,41,689
In cash or special stamps—	
Other receipts	3,25,078
Copying and comparing fees	5,87,169
Fines	4,094
Total ..	1,72,42,102

Charges.

Salaries of judicial officers	30,82,435
Establishment—	
Process-servers	9,86,789
Others	30,65,425
Copyists' fees	4,48,243
Contingencies and refunds	7,68,939
Total ..	83,51,831

There was a decrease in receipts under all heads except "Other receipts" and "Fines." Under the head "Other fees" the decrease amounted to more than Rs. 21,44,000. The decrease in expenditure was under all heads and was largest under the head "Contingencies and refunds" which exceeded Rs. 1,98,000.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1931.]

Administration of justice.

129. The Chittagong Hill Tracts were declared by a notification of the 3rd January 1921, to be "backward tracts" under section 52A of the Government of India Act. The courts in these tracts are not subordinate to the High Court, the Deputy Commissioner's Court being the Chief Court of the district and the Court of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division being the Supreme Court.

Criminal justice.

130. The number of offences reported during the year 1931 was 513 of which 321 were returned as true and 261 were brought to trial. Eight hundred and thirteen persons were under trial; of these 248 were acquitted or discharged and 408 were convicted.

In the cases ending in conviction 156 were sentenced to imprisonment for more than six months while in the other cases the punishments were less.

131. One thousand and nineteen civil suits were instituted during the year, the total value of these suits being Rs. 1,00,690. Of the 1,317 suits before the courts, all but 171 were disposed of. Civil justice.

Jails.

[Report on the Administration of the Jail Department of the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1931.]

132. For the first two months of the year 1931 the civil disobedience movement continued to make itself felt as the major problem of the Jail Department. It is true that after the end of 1930 the number of civil disobedience prisoners admitted to jail was negligible, which was a reliable indication that enthusiasm for the movement was on the wane, but the department had still on its hands a large number of such prisoners sentenced to comparatively long terms of imprisonment in 1930. Therefore, although there was no longer any ground for anxiety on account of the amount of accommodation available, it was still deemed advisable to continue to keep open the special jail and additional special jail at Dum Dum, the additional special jail at Hijli and the special jail at Berhampore. Before the close of the year 1931 it had become apparent that, owing to the resumption of civil disobedience, the Jail Department would in 1932 have to meet a challenge at least as strong as that of 1930, and the department was already making arrangements for the provision of additional accommodation. It has been learnt by experience that, in order to deal adequately with a civil disobedience movement, it is essential to have accommodation in special jails for at least 5,000 prisoners. Accommodation.

133. The process of ordinary releases had brought the number of civil disobedience prisoners down to about 2,000 at the beginning of March, when the termination of the negotiations between the Government of India and Congress led to the issue of an order for the release, after the 7th March, of all civil disobedience prisoners except those convicted for offences involving violence. District Magistrates were consulted immediately regarding all those cases and, with the least possible delay, as many as 1,850 prisoners were released, leaving only 60 who had been guilty of offences involving violence to serve out their sentences. Release of civil disobedience prisoners.

Population.

134. In 1929 the number of convicts admitted to jail was 37,000, in 1930 when the figures were swollen by the civil disobedience movement the number was 66,600 while in 1931 it was 50,900. An increase of about 14,000 over the figure for the normal year 1929 may be partly explained by the economic depression prevailing in 1931, but there can be no doubt that a large portion of it is due to that unleashing of general lawlessness which always accompanies an unlawful political movement and which usually remains as an aftermath which Government have to deal with long after the movement itself has subsided.

Overcrowding.

135. In order to relieve the continued pressure on available accommodation it was found necessary to have in November a delivery of prisoners on the lines of that of the preceding year and 1,278 convicts in all were set free some time before the expiry of their sentences. One inevitable result of overcrowding is that it renders it impossible for Superintendents of Jails to segregate habitual prisoners from non-habituals, undertrial prisoners from convicts and adolescents from adults. Overcrowding also enhances the difficulty of maintaining that standard of orderliness and discipline which should be a feature of a well-organised administration functioning in reasonably normal conditions.

Long detention of undertrials and short sentences.

136. There were increases in the number and duration of the detention of undertrial prisoners and in the number of cases in which short-term sentences were imposed. The figures for 1931 when compared with the figures for 1930, in which year there was some justification for delay in disposing of criminal cases, show a marked increase, while since 1926 this figure has been almost doubled. Any excess of undertrial prisoners over the accommodation provided for them in a particular jail involves an encroachment on accommodation reserved for convicts which persists till such time as the prisoners have been either acquitted or convicted and can be transferred to some other place where accommodation is available. In 1929 the number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment of less than one month was 6,700, in 1930 it was 8,200 while in 1931 it had still further advanced to 9,300. Such sentences have obviously no penal effect, they introduce to the undesirable environment of jail persons who should if possible be dealt with otherwise, while they impose on the jail staff a burden of work out of all proportion to their importance.

Youthful offenders.

137. There has been in 1931 a gratifying falling off in the number of convicts of less than 16 years and also of youthful convicts between the ages of 16 and 21. The high figure for last

year was due to Congress propaganda which induced many children and young boys to court imprisonment.

138. The Borstal School at Bankura, in spite of lack of funds and shortage of staff, continued, with the support of its energetic managing committee, its enlightened work of reforming youthful prisoners. The Aftercare Association, although faced with much apathy on the part of the general public, has given its devoted and ungrudging assistance to the Borstal School in its efforts to find permanent employment for boys who have passed its course. **Borstal School.**

139. The prevailing trade depression made itself felt on the manufacturing side of the Jail Department. The total amount earned in 1931 was only Rs. 3,37,000 compared with Rs. 4,48,000 in 1930. This drop was due to the paucity of the orders received from jails and other departments in the Presidency. **Jail earnings.**

140. In 1931 the death rate per mille was 11·5 which is a more satisfactory figure than that achieved in any previous year except 1930, when it attained the abnormally low level of 9·30. These figures in themselves are a sufficient refutation of those biassed and misinformed allegations of neglect and maltreatment of prisoners which so often appear in irresponsible sections of the press. **Health and mortality of prisoners.**

Registration.

141. There were 415 offices at the close of the year 1931 against 419 at the end of 1930. Four experimental offices were closed during the year 1931. The total income of the Registration Deparment decreased from Rs. 27,07,013 in 1930 to Rs. 19,53,906 in 1931, i.e., by 27·8 per cent. The decrease was mainly due to the decrease in registrations. The total expenditure also decreased from Rs. 18,61,459 in 1930 to Rs. 17,55,305 in 1931, i.e., by 5·7 per cent. The decrease was due to lower expenditure on extra establishment and contingent charges on account of decrease in registrations. **Progress and statistics.**

142. The outstanding feature of the working of the Indian Registration Act in Bengal during 1931 was the decrease in registrations which fell from 1,263,309 in 1930 to 954,349 in 1931, i.e., by 24·4 per cent. The decrease was shared by all the districts in the province. Taking the province by divisions, the largest decrease was in the Rajshahi Division, being 38·8 per cent. followed by the Chittagong Division, with a decrease of 24 per cent., Presidency 22·9 per cent., Dacca 22·4 per cent., and **Results.**

Burdwan 14·3 per cent. General trade depression and the low price of paddy and jute are the main causes of the decrease in the number of registrations.

Working of the Special Marriage Act, III of 1872.

143. Under the Special Marriage Act, III of 1872, 75 marriages were registered during 1931 as against 73 in 1930. Of these 62 were registered in Calcutta, 2 in Chittagong, 7 in Dacca and 1 each in Tippera, Bogra, Howrah and Midnapore. There were 42 Marriage Registrars (including 28 *ex-officio* Registrars) of whom only 12 registered marriages in the course of the year.

Working of the Muhammadan Registration Act and the Kazis' Act.

144. There were 380 offices at the end of the year 1931 against 378 at the end of 1930. Altogether 53,068 ceremonies were registered during the year as against 199,824 in 1930 showing a decrease of 73·4 per cent., due mainly to the fact that an unusually large number of marriages had been performed just before the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 came into force in April 1930. The general trade depression is also partly responsible for the fall. The total receipts of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis including gratuities amounted to Rs. 1,17,059-5 as against Rs. 4,20,091-6 in the preceding year.

CHAPTER VI.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Calcutta Corporation.

[Administration Report of the Calcutta Corporation for the year 1931-32.]

145. Dr. B. C. Roy and Haji M. Abdur Razzak were elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively and acted as such throughout the year under review. Personnel.

146. The revenue account of the Corporation opened with a balance of Rs. 1,13,42,491. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,33,69,123 and the payments to Rs. 2,43,03,681. Adjusting assets and liabilities of the previous year and taking into account those of the year under report, the income for the year amounted to Rs. 2,43,55,575 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,46,07,153. On the basis of actual receipts and payments, there was a balance of Rs. 1,04,07,933 of which Rs. 80,64,460 was in cash and securities. The balance consists of stores-in-stock Rs. 6,17,245 and advances Rs. 17,26,228. The latter includes Rs. 3,90,322 being a temporary advance from revenue for financing the scheme for the extension of water-supply and other capital works to be recouped on raising of loans. During the year under report the two 4 per cent. debenture loans, dated 1st July 1901 and 1st March 1902, for Rs. 6 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs respectively were repaid. A further sum of Rs. 5,688-5-5 was repaid to Government on account of the loans of the amalgamated municipalities. In July a 6 per cent. debenture loan for Rs. 3,11,400 was raised to make up the amount required for the repayment of the 4 per cent. debenture loan of 1901-02, dated 1st July 1901, for Rs. 6 lakhs, the balance being available from the sinking fund. The debentures were issued at par to and in the name of the Corporation for investment of sinking and other funds. In February 1932 an application was submitted to Government for sanction to the raising of two 6½ per cent. debenture loans of Rs. 16,30,000 and Rs. 5,19,000. The former was for new works and the latter for repayment on 1st March 1932 of the 4 per cent. debenture loan of 1901-02, dated 1st March 1902, for Rs. 10 lakhs mentioned above, the balance being available from the sinking fund. Sanction to the loan of Rs. 5,19,000 was received in April 1932 and the debentures were issued at par to and in the name of the Corporation. As regards the proposal for a 6½ per cent. loan of Rs. 16,30,000 for works, a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs carrying interest at 6½ per cent. per annum was sanctioned by Government in September 1932. Owing to the easier conditions of the Finance.

money market prevailing at the time, it was eventually found possible to float the loan in October 1932 at 5½ per cent. The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year stood at Rs. 8,34,59,267 including Rs. 74,59,792 on account of the sterling debenture loan of £500,000 and Rs. 21,075 on account of the balance of the loan taken from Government by the now defunct Maniktolla municipality. Against this indebtedness, there was an aggregate accumulation of Rs. 2,01,89,037 in the sinking funds. The total payments made on account of loan charges during 1931-32 amounted to Rs. 57,74,637.

Assessment department.

147. At the close of the year the assessed annual valuation of the city stood at Rs. 10,42,74,798 being an increase of Rs. 15,34,291 over the valuation at the end of the previous year. This was due not only to the revaluation of properties made during the year for which the revised assessments became operative but also included those cases in respect of which objections pending during the previous years were disposed of in the course of the year under report.

Surveyor and Valuer's department.

148. This department had to spend Rs. 2,22,760 for the acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act as well as under section 304 of the Calcutta Municipal Act and thereby received possession of nearly 68 bighas of land. In addition 5½ kottahs of land valued at Rs. 8,307 were received from various parties as free gifts.

Collection department.

149. The total gross demand of the year on account of consolidated rate was Rs. 2,00,37,000. This includes the arrears of previous years pending with the Collector and the Assessor, of which Rs. 1,75,87,429 was collected and demands aggregating Rs. 7,09,499 were cancelled on account of holdings being vacant. Bills amounting to Rs. 6,20,127 were pending with the Assessor at the close of the year for amendment and bills aggregating Rs. 1,97,160 were transferred to the Law Department for recovery by suit. The net unrealised balance pending with the Collector at the close of the year was Rs. 9,23,194. The percentage of collection on the net demand was 95·13, the corresponding percentages in the previous two years being 97·57 and 98·09 respectively.

Licence department.

150. In spite of the prevailing trade depression, the licence department collected Rs. 18,79,551 on account of licence taxes. Of this amount Rs. 11,65,005 was on account of the tax on trades and professions, Rs. 4,23,036 on account of the tax on carriages and animals, Rs. 1,16,802 on account of fees under sections 179, 386, 396, 405 and 413, Rs. 1,73,716 on account of cart registration fees and Rs. 992 on account of fees, penalties and miscellaneous receipts. The total outstanding demand (current) was Rs. 2,39,475.

The total number of licences issued during the year was 64,370 and the total collections under the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade tax amounted to Rs. 1,33,316.

Lighting department.

151. There were 18,864 gas lamps in the city at the end of the year, of which 171 were added during the year. The number of oil and electric lamps was 949 and 2,888 respectively. A new agreement has been entered into with the Oriental Gas Company, Limited, for seven years, on terms which it is estimated, will result in a saving of more than a lakh of rupees every year to the Corporation.

Water-supply.

152. During the year the average daily supply of filtered water amounted to 59·6 million gallons and that of unfiltered water to about 50·3 million gallons making a total average of 110 million gallons. The average supply per head per day amounted to 49·8 gallons of filtered water and 50·3 gallons of unfiltered water. In connection with the water-supply extension scheme, the newly laid portion of Zone IV main was cleared and District IV was supplied with water through a 42-inch temporary connection from Zone III main. Several cross connections were also established in District IV and there has been considerable improvement in the supply and pressure.

Water-works.

153. At Pulta, the shifting of the machinery from the old pressure station to the intake station was taken up. A portion of the compound was dressed and levelled and drainage constructed so as to discharge the seepage water direct into the river without going through the drains constructed by the local municipalities and the race course authorities.

In the Pulta-Tallah main, several cross connections were established between the new 60-inch main and the old 48-inch C. I. main.

Drainage.

154. At the beginning of the year Government generally approved of the scheme for the improvement of the internal drainage submitted by the Corporation and the Special Officer appointed for the purpose took up the preparation of the final designs and detailed estimates in connection with the various works comprising the scheme. Extensive survey works and the regular analysis of sewage from various parts of the city, the river and the canals, etc., had to be undertaken for the purpose. The question of the provision of a new outfall was still under the consideration of the Expert Committee appointed by Government, but in the meantime the department carried on regular investigations together with the survey and inspection of the river Biddyadhari and the connected channels. It was found at the beginning of the year that the Biddyadhari river was in an advanced state of decay

and on the advice of the Special Officer some emergent measures were undertaken to safeguard the outlying districts from becoming sewage logged. Among the measures adopted may be mentioned the work of constructing a 75-inch brick drain in Tangra for utilising the old high level sewer. The pumping plant at the Palmer's bridge pumping station has been considerably reinforced by the erection of two electrically driven pumps. Some improvements were also made at the Ballygunge drainage pumping station such as the construction of sump chamber, etc. The drainage of the Taltolla area has been improved by laying pipe sewers of bigger dimensions in the locality. Among other improvement works carried out by the department may be mentioned the sewering of Dover Lane and Nandy Street, the sewering of the area in Ballygunge laid out by the Hindusthan Co-operative Insurance Society, the construction of a 15-inch pipe sewer in connection with the Dock area drainage. The construction of the 84-inch and 87-inch diameter stormwater drain in the Kidderpore area along Alipore Park Road West and the laying of a pipe sewer in Deodar Street were completed during the year. To prevent flooding during heavy rainfall sewers have been constructed in Bahir Mirzapore Street, Ananda Palit Road, Hogulkuria Gulley and other places. The sewer survey work was continued and a length of 85 miles of sewers was surveyed during the year, bringing the total length surveyed to 260 miles up to date.

Bustee department.

155. Fifty-eight bustees comprising about 197 bustee premises covering an area of about 1,072 bighas were surveyed during the year and standard plans prepared. Plans for 39 insanitary private streets were also prepared with a view to taking action under section 317 for improvement. Twelve bighas of bustee lands were cleared of huts and more than 3 miles of road opened out. Two bathing platforms and 68 connected privies have been constructed. Private streets abutting on 76 premises have been improved and 10 light posts provided in them.

Conservancy.

156. The daily average quantity of refuse dealt with during the year was 1,170 tons.

Roads.

157. The total expenditure on roads and footpaths amounted to Rs. 18,63,000. Of this Rs. 4,84,000 was the expenditure on the construction and improvement of roads including Rs. 3,62,000 on new bituminous road surfacing. Besides, a sum of Rs. 2,09,000 was spent on repairs to roads previously asphalted and Rs. 7,18,000 on repairs to other road surfaces.

Building department.

158. The department dealt with 9,511 plans for masonry buildings and huts. Sanction was given to 25 per cent. of plans for masonry buildings and 47 per cent. of plans in the case of

huts. Systematic and regular examinations of old and insecure buildings were carried on by four building inspectors and 1,700 notices under rule 4 of Schedule XVIII of the Act were served during the year. Notices numbering 1,592 were served to stop unauthorised work.

Health department.

159. The total number of births registered during the year in the city including the added areas was 26,477 or 24·6 per mille as compared with 23,614 births and 21·9 per mille in the previous year. The total number of deaths registered during the year for the whole city including the added areas was 30,562 or 28·4 per mille against 31,135 deaths or a death rate of 28·9 per mille in 1930. The mortality from enteric, kala-azar and malaria was about the same as in the previous year, the total number of deaths under these heads amounting to 1,828 as against 1,758 in the previous year. There was a substantial decline in the mortality from bowel complaints (2,958 deaths as against 3,188), cholera (1,235 deaths as against 1,755) and small-pox (891 deaths as against 1,818). On the other hand the deaths from respiratory diseases were more, 6,611 or 6·1 per mille as against 6,389 or 5·9 in the previous year, while tuberculosis also accounted for a slight increase, 2,931 deaths against 2,756. Deaths among infants under one year numbered 6,467, the infantile mortality rate being 244 per thousand births against 262·8, the figure of the previous year. The lady health visitors and midwives employed by the Corporation maintained their popularity and usefulness. They delivered 7,132 cases and removed 141 difficult cases of labour to hospitals. The number of infantile deaths amongst babies delivered by the Corporation staff was 134. Excluding 191 still births the rate of infantile mortality within the first ten days of birth attended by the Corporation staff was 1,818 per thousand, while the general infantile mortality rate within the first week in the whole city was 79·6 per thousand. There were only 13 maternal deaths amongst the mothers delivered by the Corporation staff.

Food inspection.

160. The total number of samples of foodstuffs analysed was 9,575 of which 2,160 or 22·6 per cent. were found adulterated. Six hundred and sixty-three out of 1,693 samples of milk, 217 out of 1,933 samples of ghee, 61 out of 485 samples of butter, 818 out of 2,278 samples of mustard oil, 51 out of 217 samples of barley, 11 out of 44 samples of tea, were found adulterated. The total number of prosecutions disposed of during the year under review was 4,975 and the fines realised amounted to Rs. 28,560-8.

Markets.

161. The total revenue derived from the municipal markets during the year under review amounted to Rs. 12,31,329 as against Rs. 12,45,413 in the preceding year resulting in a decrease of

Rs. 14,084 which was due to general trade depression. Several new projects which were in contemplation had to be put off owing to financial stringency.

Education department.

162. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation on public instruction amounted to Rs. 11,68,753 as against Rs. 10,33,421 in the previous year. At the end of the year, there were 229 Corporation free primary schools with 30,064 pupils against 220 schools and 27,802 pupils in the previous year. Of the total number of pupils on the rolls, 17,415 were boys and 12,649 girls as compared with 16,217 boys and 11,585 girls at the end of the previous year. Of the total number of schools, 3 were part-time schools and were held in the morning, while 223 were day schools and 3 night schools; the corresponding figures of the previous year being 5 and 215 respectively. At the close of the year, there were 986 teachers in all the Corporation free primary schools of whom 624 were made teachers and 362 were women teachers.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1931-32.]

Improvement schemes.

163. The most important street schemes in hand during the year were the extensions of Chittaranjan Avenue from Beadon Street to Grey Street and thence to Shambazar Street. The new 84 feet road connecting Chittaranjan Avenue with Strand Road slightly to the north of Jagannathghat and the widening of Maniktala Road between Upper Circular Road and Maniktala bridge were completed during the year. Another important scheme which was completed during the year was the new 60 feet road between Darpanarayan Tagore Street and Pathuriaghat Street. Four schemes in central Calcutta were completed during the year, namely, the widening of Sashi Bhusan Dey Street, the Maydapati scheme, the widening of Strand Road between Harrison Road and Raja Woodmunt Street and the widening of a small portion of Banstala Street. The passing of the Calcutta Improvement Amendment Act, 1931, which empowers the Board of Trustees in certain cases to levy betterment fees has made it financially possible for the Trust to proceed with some portions of its original programme for the improvement of Burra Bazar.

Open spaces.

164. The Trust's parks continue to be in great demand among athletic clubs of all kinds as playing grounds. The neighbourhood of the Dhakuria Lake continues to grow in popularity as an evening resort and considerable public interest has been aroused by the proposal to extend the lake westwards in connection with the scheme for developing the area east of Russa Road.

165. The Narkeldanga bridge was opened to traffic and handed over to the Irrigation Department during the year and the construction of the Alipur bridge was almost finished. Bridges.

166. The position of the rehousing scheme was the same as in the previous year. Further rehousing schemes were not undertaken but special facilities were afforded to dishoused persons for purchasing land for reinstatement purposes. Rehousing scheme.

167. The receipts from sales of land continued at approximately the same figure as during the five years preceding the year 1928-29 when there was a marked rise. The revenue from special taxation dropped by nearly Rs. 2 lakhs from Rs. 18,43,900 in 1930-31 to Rs. 16,57,094 in 1931-32 mainly on account of a further decrease in the proceeds of the jute tax which has now returned to the neighbourhood of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum after reaching a maximum of Rs. 14½ lakhs in 1929-30. The municipal corporation contribution rose from Rs. 19,24,133 in 1930-31 to Rs. 19,73,733 in 1931-32. Finance.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

168. The number of municipalities was 117, as in the preceding year. Madaripur municipality in Faridpur was reduced to half its previous size by the exclusion of rural areas. Number of municipalities.

169. General elections were held in 53 municipalities including Baruipur, where the elective system was restored after being withdrawn for incompetence due to party faction in 1929. Most of the elections were contested keenly. In Ward No. III of Baraset municipality every voter went to the poll, while over 90 per cent. voted in all three wards of Jaynagar and in one ward or more of 13 other municipalities. The percentage fell below 50 in five municipalities, being lowest in Baranagar and Nabadwip where in one ward only 34 and 108 voters respectively polled out of 894 and 341 on the registers. Civil suits were instituted in no less than seven municipalities, viz., Burdwan, Kalna, Bankura, Midnapore, Gobardanga, Baduria and Comilla, and fresh elections had to be held in one ward each of Bankura and Gobardanga. Elections.

170. There were only three municipalities which failed to meet once a month. At Gobardanga no meetings at all were held: at North Barrackpore there were only ten: and at old Malda where 11 were summoned one failed for want of a quorum and all the rest were adjourned. The attendance of commissioners was fairly good with a few striking exceptions, among which Raibari with a percentage of 5·6 calls for mention. On the other hand 118 meetings against 129 in the previous year were not held for want Municipal meetings.

of quorum. The total number called was 2,601 of which 249 were adjourned against 164 in the previous year. The largest number of meetings held was 70 at Bansberia, but the commissioners of Santipur, Nabadwip, Burdwan, Panihati and Krishnagar met 45 times or more. It is unfortunate that municipalities should thus fail to conduct their business with reasonable despatch, but in one of them at any rate, viz., Santipur, the cause was undoubtedly party faction which is having a serious effect on the administration of the town.

Rate-payers and population.

171. The total number of ratepayers rose from 337,380 to 343,600 but their percentage to the total population, as shown in the 1931 census, remained almost stationary in all divisions except Rajshahi where, owing to an increase of nearly 31,000 in the town population, it fell from 20·9 to 18·3. The percentage of rate-payers was highest in Kumarkhali (46·7), followed by Sherpur with 37·5, Bogra with 34·1, Chandrakona with 29·6 and Katwa with 29·5. In fourteen municipalities, for the most part with populations largely composed of mill operatives, the number of rate-payers was less than a tenth of the population of the town. In Bansberia the ratio fell from 17·87 to 8·5, owing to an abnormal increase from 6,382 to 14,221 in the population, as shown at the last census.

Rates and taxes.

172. The average incidence of municipal taxation for the province as a whole was Rs. 3-1-2 against Rs. 3-3-9 in the previous year. It was again highest in the hill municipality of Darjeeling (Rs. 14-7-10). Next came the new municipality of Dum-Dum (Rs. 8-3-4) and the municipalities of Howrah (Rs. 8-2-11) and Kurseong (7-8-11). The figure for Kurseong showed a reduction of Re. 1-2-11, owing chiefly to an increase in the population but in part to smaller collections. The increase at Darjeeling by as. 11-2, was due to a fall in the population and to excellent collections. In ten other municipalities the incidence was above Rs. 4 while in 23 municipalities it fell below Re. 1, being lowest in Bajitpur (as. 6), Debhatta (as. 7) and Baduria (as. 7-9). The income from municipal rates and taxes rose from Rs. 68·37 lakhs to Rs. 70·76 lakhs. The economic situation led to postponement of a revision of assessment in several municipalities but there were revisions, general or partial in thirty-four. The largest increase resulting from such revision was obtained in the South Suburban municipality (Rs. 11,664). The municipalities of Budge-Budge, Dacca, Bhatpara, Panihati and Chittagong obtained increases of Rs. 10,550, Rs. 8,561, Rs. 7,923, Rs. 6,445 and Rs. 5,359 respectively, but in Jamalpur there was a decrease of Rs. 2,846 in the municipal revenues, due chiefly to remissions

granted during the year. Nawabganj municipality deserves particular mention as deriving about 28 per cent. of its revenues from cart registration fees: in effect it thus taxed the people of neighbouring villages and was able to keep down the rate of taxation in the town: the incidence and the yield of the tax on persons was extremely low for a town of this size and the registration fees yielded far more than was spent on roads.

173. The total collections rose from Rs. 66·79 lakhs to Rs. 67·43 lakhs, and the percentage of total collections on current demand also rose from 88·4 to 89·5. Municipal finances continued to reflect the economic difficulties of the province but, in spite of this, there were fifteen municipalities where the collections exceeded 100 per cent., the highest percentage being attained by the Darjeeling municipality (109·8). These examples show that where there was impartiality and firmness on the part of the head of the administration and where the commissioners co-operated, good collections could be made. There were too many municipalities which, on the plea of economic distress among the rate-payers, made no real effort to reduce arrears. The percentage of collection was below 80 in 19 municipalities and was no more than 57·5 in Panihati where collections were hampered by appeals against the new assessment. Garulia collected cent. per cent. of its demand without any remission and without leaving any outstanding balance, while Champdany and Nalchiti realised practically the whole demand, granting less than ·3 per cent. remission and leaving practically no balances. Ramjibanpur, Dum-Dum and Santipur showed improved collections and Vishnupur did twice as well as in the previous year, but there was a noticeable falling off in Basirhat and Sherpur (Bogra). Reluctance to take action against defaulters to which attention has been called year after year continued to be the cardinal defect in the municipal administration and there were several municipalities regarding which it is said that not much endeavour was made to realise arrears from the defaulters who were rich and influential. Remissions rose by more than half a lakh to a total of Rs. 4·6 lakhs. The present body of commissioners at Vishnupur who are reported to be doing much better work than their predecessors had to remit 18·7 per cent. of the current demand and, in spite of comparatively good collections, left an outstanding balance of more than half the demand. At Dum-Dum and at Bhola remissions amounted to nearly one-sixth of the demand. The municipalities of Garulia, Baduria and Meherpur allowed no remission. The outstanding arrears increased by nearly 3 lakhs of rupees to Rs. 25·1 lakhs, which is approximately 37 per cent. of the demand realised. Dhulian, Bhadreswar and Garulia are the only municipalities where Collections.

there was no outstanding balance at the end of the year. There were only nominal balances left at Nalchiti (Rs. 13), Kanchrapara (Rs. 28), Champdany (Rs. 38) and Cox's Bazar (Rs. 50). Rajpore on the other hand had a balance outstanding equivalent to 108 per cent. of its demand. There were large balances in Howrah (Rs. 7,95,268), Dacca (Rs. 3,02,906), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,01,099) and Mymensingh (Rs. 96,108). No explanations have been furnished for these heavy outstandings except as regards Dacca, where they are attributed to the economic difficulties of the majority of the rate-payers.

Income and expenditure.

174. The total receipts amounted, with the opening balances, to Rs. 122·4 lakhs against Rs. 109·9 lakhs in the preceding year, but the increase occurred mainly under the head "Extraordinary and Rent". The total disbursements rose from Rs. 96·75 lakhs to Rs. 109 lakhs. The total balance at the close of the year was Rs. 13 lakhs as in the previous year. The largest balances were those of Darjeeling (Rs. 2,43,839), Howrah (Rs. 1,34,349), Dacca (Rs. 97,329) and Baranagar (Rs. 47,400). The greater part of the balance in Baranagar represented funds set apart for the water-supply scheme. A great many municipalities including Dacca had closing balances which were quite inadequate to meet outstanding liabilities, and several left themselves no working balances. The worst offenders in this respect were Bajitpur, Gobardanga and Sonamukhi, with balances of Rs. 16, Rs. 17 and Rs. 31 respectively.

Education.

175. The total amount spent on education, including the Government grant of Rs. 1·16 lakhs, fell from Rs. 5·15 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs which represented 5·5 per cent. of the municipal income. The expenditure on primary education also showed a corresponding decrease of Rs. 7,000, which is shared by all except the Presidency and Chittagong divisions. The decrease was most marked in Howrah (Rs. 5,891) and Rangpur (Rs. 3,420) which none the less spent 16·5 per cent. of its income on education. Here as in several other municipalities the decrease was due to avoidance of expenditure on the construction or repair of school buildings. Other municipalities where there was a noticeable decrease were Jhalakati (Rs. 1,267), Bhadreswar (Rs. 1,145) and Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,037), while as usual Dum-Dum and Gouripur spent nothing on education. Ten municipalities including Darjeeling, which in most other respects did excellent work, failed to spend the minimum proportion of 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income on primary education. This was an improvement over the previous year when the figure was 12 and there was a similar improvement from 25 to 28 in the number of municipalities where the expenditure on education was more than 10 per cent. One of

the few towns where the expenditure increased was Berhampore which devoted Rs. 4,851 to the construction and establishment of a fifth free primary school at Gorabazar under Mr. Biss's scheme. Narayanganj maintained three free primary schools and a library at a cost of Rs 1,660. The commissioners of the Chittagong municipality deserve credit for their enterprise with regard to primary education. They succeeded in launching their scheme for free and compulsory primary education for girls, of which mention was made last year, and they spent Rs. 55,371 on education in general.

Water-supply.

176. The total expenditure under this head was Rs. 17·34 lakhs against Rs. 11·34 lakhs, showing an increase of Rs. 6 lakhs. The increase was most marked in Asansol (Rs. 3·7 lakhs), Narayanganj (Rs. 1·4 lakhs) and Darjeeling (Rs. 1·3 lakhs). At Asansol the increase was due mainly to adjustment of advances made previously to the Public Health Department on this account; at Narayanganj the waterworks on the east side of the river Lakshya, which had been commenced about three years before were completed; at Darjeeling a second reservoir was constructed at Senchal. The Darjeeling municipality showed energy as regards its water-supply and decided to supply water from its system to certain areas in Ghoom and Jhore bungalow at a cost of Rs. 21,500. The noticeable decrease of Rs. 1·6 lakhs at Bhatpara represented a fall in the capital outlay on the town improvement scheme. The water-supply scheme at this place is now working and has proved fairly satisfactory. The waterworks at Narayanganj (on the east side of the river Lakshya), North Chandpur and English Bazar were practically completed by the end of the year and filtered water is being supplied to these towns. The use of municipal water-supplies at Patuakhali and at Faridpur is reported to have resulted in a decrease of the death rate from cholera. Little new work was taken up. The projects at Pabna and Rajshahi came to a standstill owing to non-realisation of local contributions, including those promised by the Tarash Zamindars in Pabna and by Maharani Hemanta Kumari Devi of Puthia in Rajshahi. The big scheme at Budge-Budge could not be taken up owing to trade depression, while at Nabadwip the railway have abandoned the idea of excavating a tank and the Public Health Department have been asked for a new estimate for a supply from a tube well or the river. No great progress was made at Jalpaiguri though a site was at last selected for the waterworks and experimental tube wells were sunk. The much needed scheme for Katwa, which was estimated to cost Rs. 50,000 was kept in abeyance owing to the impossibility of getting a loan or a grant till the general financial position improved. Several municipalities sank tube wells. The town of Jessore is now supplied from tube wells which gave excellent water

and Brahmanberia sank several for supply of drinking water. The Nabadwip municipality set up 13 hydrants, to which water is pumped from a tube well at a central station and a scheme for the extension of pipe lines is under contemplation. At Kalna the question of water-supply was solved in part by sinking a tube well and in Comilla the two tube wells were unable to meet the demand.

Conservancy and drainage.

177. The expenditure on conservancy fell from Rs. 23·76 lakhs to Rs. 23·13 lakhs but it was still in excess of the receipts on this account. The deficit amounting to Rs. 5·22 lakhs was made good out of the general fund in many municipalities, which persist in this practice so repeatedly condemned. On the other hand several municipalities trenched upon their latrine funds to supplement their revenues, though the Commissioner of Rajshahi, comments that continued pressure through audit and inspections has checked the tendency to misapply these funds. At Nawabganj the use of motors for conservancy and street watering reduced expenditure by over Rs. 8,000. Chittagong where great interest was taken in improving conservancy also adopted motor transport for the removal of street refuse on a contract basis with satisfactory results: on account of an epidemic among their bullocks and heavy loss of fodder due to fire the Chittagong municipality had to entrust the removal of night-soil also to contractors and found this economical. Burdwan municipality purchased a new night-soil motor van, as well as a combined fire engine and watering car: this municipality also acquired a new trenching ground and equipped the old one with a tube-well, a reservoir and a washing platform. Rajshahi bought a motor road-watering lorry. On drainage the total expenditure rose from Rs. 3·59 lakhs to Rs. 8·1 lakhs but this does not indicate a general revival of activity. The sum of Rs. 56,000 spent at Dacca was chiefly devoted to the partial satisfaction of a High Court decree in the land acquisition case connected with the outfall works. In the Presidency Division the increase of Rs. 4¾ lakhs was chiefly due to capital expenditure on the important Bhatpara scheme, though some municipalities also introduced minor improvements. In other divisions little new work was done. In Jessore, Noakhali, Pabna and Comilla, the drains were reported to be in a particularly bad state, but in Comilla the newly appointed commissioners were taking up the problem with energy. At Faridpur the drains were so badly graded as to hold up water and definitely to affect the health of the town, and at Katwa, where the water-supply scheme is held up, the masonry surface drains with no flushing arrangements had proved to be a nuisance rather than a benefit. It is disheartening to the municipal authorities to find that no real good has resulted from their attempts to remedy insanitary conditions but till

finances become better, their policy must be to persist in small improvements designed to fit into larger schemes which will eventually become possible.

178. The decrease of Rs. 11,000 in expenditure under this head was not real, for bills to more than this amount were left unpaid in Midnapore, Dacca (Rs. 10,567) and Burdwan (Rs. 3,595). On the other hand noticeable increases occurred in Bhatpara (Rs. 17,017) and Baranagar (Rs. 14,936) owing to the installation of electric lighting, while Darjeeling municipality spent no less than Rs. 63,370 on their new scheme, to be completed in three years, for reorganising their electric generating and distribution system. During the year under review electric lighting was introduced in Serajganj and on the main road of Berhampore. Appreciable progress was made with the electric supply scheme at Asansol, but no headway was made at Rajshahi and Jalpaiguri where the schemes for electrification are linked with those for water-supply and nothing more was heard of the projects at Pabna and Kurseong. Lighting.

179. The municipal authorities almost without exception showed energy in dealing with outbreaks of cholera and smallpox. In four municipalities only were there outbreaks sufficiently serious to be described as epidemics and when sporadic cases occurred, as they did in most places, adequate measures were promptly taken, though a few municipalities wasted money on precautions, such as the burning of sulphur and coal-tar in the affected areas, which were not likely to be of practical value. It is satisfactory to note that vaccination and revaccination were carried out as a rule systematically, and that the prejudice against revaccination showed signs of diminishing. For example in Tangail and in Dacca there were for the second year in succession far more secondary than primary vaccinations and in several other places revaccinations were numerous. In Dacca and in Pirojpur, where also revaccination was popular, there was not a single case of smallpox. Against cholera the chief safeguard must always be a really adequate water-supply, which is still lacking in the majority of municipalities: but chlorination and disinfection together with anti-cholera inoculation, which appears to be accepted readily, were successful in protecting the towns against the cholera epidemics reported from several districts. It is worth mentioning that at Faridpur cholera attacked only persons who did not use the water from the town water-supply. Municipalities were much less successful in dealing with malaria which demands, for its control, not intermittent displays of energy but persistence in a definite and well-thought-out programme, giving no Public Health.

immediate results. From all divisions there are reports of activity in filling up tanks and cutting down jungle. But such activities cannot possibly have any effect on malaria unless carried out systematically and over large areas and the finances of the municipalities forbid their undertaking them on a sufficiently large scale. It is essential therefore that municipal authorities should compel property owners to collaborate by keeping their premises in a proper state. Increased powers have been given in the new Municipal Act which it is hoped will lead to an improvement in this respect, but they will not do so unless the municipal authorities use them with greater firmness than as a rule they do their present powers. Just as frequently they hesitate to incur unpopularity by insisting on the prompt payment of taxes, so too they are reported in many instances to have taken no steps to enforce the orders issued by them on owners of private lands to carry out sanitary improvements. It is possible that in this direction they may find their task made easier by the activities of anti-malaria societies which are reported to have done good work in several towns: supported by a popular movement against insanitary conditions in a definite area, the municipal authorities are in a better position to take coercive measures than when they act on the reports of their public health staff only. At Birnagar the Palli Mandali continued its anti-malaria campaign and in addition undertook measures against mosquito breeding in the Chaka bheel on the outskirts of the town: and in a few other towns anti-malaria campaigns were carried on with the assistance of the Public Health Department. It may be noticed that reluctance to cut down expenditure on sanitation led in many places to neglect of other important activities and in particular of the upkeep of roads. Activities against the sale of adulterated food-stuffs were very uneven. For its size, the small town of Gaibandha did most, instituting no fewer than 40 prosecutions. The total number instituted by the municipalities of the whole Presidency division was only 20 more. Out of this total 31 were instituted in Berhampore, resulting in fines of Rs. 540. At Dacca there were 94 prosecutions but the fines amounted only to Rs. 196. The municipalities of Dacca division on the whole showed the most energy against the sale of adulterated foodstuffs, and among the most active of them was Nalchiti, one of the smallest. Rajshahi division held the second place, but generally speaking little was done in the other divisions. One of the Commissioners points out that in prosecutions initiated by district boards the failure of municipalities to check the sale of adulterated food-stuffs by wholesalers has been successfully pleaded as a defence by small shopkeepers in villages who have to buy from them. This is a matter to which municipalities in general might devote

more attention. The other activities of the municipalities as regards public health work during the year under review call for no special comment.

180. The expenditure on public works fell by Rs. 44,000 to Rs. 10·34 lakhs. This was chiefly due to reduced expenditure in the Presidency division where Baranagar and Bhatpara reduced expenditure by Rs. 24,337 and Rs. 12,842 after special expenditure on roads and office buildings in the previous year. There was a decrease in two other divisions Rajshahi (Rs. 10,500) and Chittagong (Rs. 5,800—almost entirely in Chittagong municipality) but in Burdwan and Dacca expenditure went up by Rs. 3,193 and Rs. 17,253. The expenditure on roads increased in the Burdwan division by Rs. 9,244 and in Dacca municipality by Rs. 34,399 chiefly on making 1·7 miles of metalled road and treating roads with tar and pitch. Elsewhere very little new work was taken up. In the Presidency division there was a reduction of 48·8 miles in the mileage of roads maintained by municipalities, chiefly in small towns which have a greater mileage of roads than they can afford to maintain. Public works.

181. Thirty-four municipalities were in debt at the close of the year to a total amount of Rs. 24·9 lakhs against Rs. 23·4 lakhs for the previous year. Hooghly-Chinsura, Narayanganj and Midnapore took loans of Rs. 40,000, Rs. 28,000 and Rs. 20,000 for waterworks schemes, while the municipalities of Baranagar, Ranaghat and Sherpur (Bogra) paid off their debts in full. The municipalities of Jiaganj-Azimganj and Santipur took loans from private persons without interest. The former cleared off its liability on this account during the year, but the latter has not yet repaid the loan. Loans.

182. The accounts of all but six municipalities were audited by the Examiner of Local Accounts and his staff. Municipal authorities in general continued to show no appreciation of the value of audit which they are disposed to regard as an unnecessary interference rather than a useful safeguard to themselves. During the year under review as so often in the past, there were reports of delay in dealing with audit objections, failure to remedy defects, and relapse into irregularities which could with a little care have been avoided. But no serious case of embezzlement or fraud was brought to light except in Hooghly-Chinsura where the tax daroga misappropriated a sum of about Rs. 1,400. A prosecution was started but the accused absconded. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division has reported a small embezzlement of Rs. 381 by another tax daroga, who took advantage of the complete lack of system in the collection department. In this case Audit of accounts.

the action taken was quite inadequate: on recovery of the amount the daroga was dismissed and two other officers who were implicated were merely warned.

General remarks.

183. A great deal of good work was undoubtedly done by municipal authorities: administration generally was honest, if often timid, and there was almost everywhere enthusiasm among both commissioners and rate-payers for improvements, especially in connection with public health. It must be remembered that the commissioners have as a rule almost insuperable obstacles to face. The streets are badly laid out, the surface drains such as no reasonable means can keep clean, the vacant spaces frequently covered with insanitary jungle or occupied by dirty tanks or swamps, and the rate-payers steadily opposed to fresh taxation. It is not surprising that progress should be spasmodic and that as a rule the municipal administration follows stereotyped tradition. But grants from the proceeds of the motor vehicle tax will be of some assistance to them and the Municipal Act of 1932 presents an opportunity for a break with the past and for advance on new lines: it puts municipalities on a more popular basis, gives them increased powers, and allows them to raise larger revenues. There is thus every possibility that with a return to prosperity, a new spirit may enter into the administration of Bengal municipalities.

District Boards.

District and local boards.

184. Khulna district board was reconstituted with six additional members, and Malda with three after the introduction of the elective system. The number of elected members of the 26 district boards thus rose to 446 and the total number of all members to 693. Darjeeling continued to have a nominated official chairman but all other boards elected their own chairmen except Midnapore, Bankura and Mymensingh from which that privilege had been withdrawn. The members of the Midnapore board have since petitioned for the retention of an official chairman in view of the progress made under this system, while power has been recently restored to the Mymensingh Board to elect its chairman: but at Bankura the unofficial majority persisted, in spite of there being an official as chairman. in misusing the revenues of the board for political purposes and the board has recently been asked to show cause against supersession. Elsewhere except in Jessore, where there was party faction, the district boards refused to allow their attention to be diverted from their proper function by communal or political prejudice. The number of meetings held was deliberately reduced by at least two boards—Dacca and Mymensingh, in order to save travelling allowances. Both of these and

the Darjeeling board held meetings only once every two months. The total number held by all boards fell from 402 to 379, of which 15 were adjourned and three failed for want of a quorum. The highest percentage of attendance was 85·8 in Nadia and the lowest 33·44 in Jessore. The number of local boards was 84 as in the previous year, and the number of members increased by one, at Jamalpur, to 1,386. Throughout one division at least and in parts of others, these boards have not fulfilled the hope that they would gain new vitality by being given more extensive duties, under the Village Local Self-Government Act. The union boards have preferred to deal directly with district boards and the district boards have not delegated powers of supervision to the local boards, which have largely been compelled to act merely as their agents. Economic depression appears to be giving rise in some places to a belief that local boards cost more than their work justifies, and suggestions for their abolition are frequently made by conferences of union boards: but this is a farreaching proposal on which public opinion is divided and on which Government are not at present prepared to take action.

Financial features.

185. After the persistent decline shown during the two previous years in the revenues of district boards the increase of Rs. 36,000 in their receipts to a total of Rs. 148·34 lakhs during the year under review might seem satisfactory. But this included Rs. 16,000 more under loans and Rs. 80,000 more under deposits and advances than in the previous year and Government contributions increased by over Rs. 80,000, very largely owing to advances for test relief in Pabna. Expenditure rose from Rs. 148 lakhs to Rs. 149 lakhs, chiefly under the heads "Medical" and "Famine relief" and the balance standing to the credit of district boards at the end of the year fell from Rs. 16·56 lakhs to Rs. 15·5 lakhs. The only boards which did not suffer from financial embarrassment were those, like Khulna and Dinajpur, which had recently had cess revaluations. In the Rajshahi division several boards overestimated their probable incomes from cess and found themselves unable to meet large commitments which they had in consequence undertaken. There is a tendency for district boards, which after cess revaluations find their incomes largely increased, to commit themselves light-heartedly to heavy expenditure, instead of keeping ample margins to meet emergencies and it would have been well if more boards had followed the example of Nadia which maintained a sound financial position largely owing to its foresight in keeping reserves against a shrinkage of income. Another board with a sound financial policy was that of Midnapore which during the year cleared off all the liabilities left by the previous swarajist administration: in place of debts to the amount

of Rs. 1,15,000 and a deficit balance of Rs. 7,000, it had at the close of the year a cash balance of Rs. 37,000, as well as deposits amounting to over Rs. 46,000, after meeting in full all its normal commitments. In Noakhali, although income from cess was short of expectations by nearly Rs. 34,000, the board, by rigid economy and taking strict measures to realise arrears, showed an income of Rs. 71,860 more than the budget provision and was able to pay off old liabilities.

Education.

186. The income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 21·91 lakhs and Rs. 36·77 lakhs against Rs. 21·46 lakhs and Rs. 36 lakhs, respectively, in the previous year. The receipt from Government contribution amounted to more than Rs. 21 lakhs and the expenditure on primary education alone was Rs. 28·1 lakhs. The number of upper and lower primary schools maintained and aided by district boards increased from 49,471 to 50,380. The number of boys and girls attending these schools was about 1,372,880 and 366,568, respectively. There were 42 industrial schools maintained or aided by district boards, imparting instruction to some 1,547 pupils, in various subjects including carpentry, smithy, wickerwork, dyeing and weaving.

Public health and medical relief.

187. The expenditure under this head rose by Rs. 1·3 lakhs to Rs. 34·5 lakhs, out of which Rs. 13·5 lakhs were spent on hospitals and dispensaries and Rs. 17·4 lakhs on public health work. Government grants amounted to Rs. 13·7 lakhs. The total number of dispensaries maintained and assisted rose from 952 to 968. Several boards commented on the serious decrease in private contributions to their dispensaries and one Commissioner remarked that but for Government subsidies many village dispensaries would have had to close down. Other boards might do well to follow the example set by the Nadia district board and other boards in the Presidency division which have made a success of the system of charging fees: the chief reason for the comparative failure of this system in other districts appears to be the lack of belief in it: there can be no doubt that the possibilities of progress in this direction are very great. It is noticeable that in the Chittagong division district boards appear to have a tendency to aid dispensaries by grants rather than to maintain their own dispensaries. The work of rural health units, for which district boards receive grants from Government, was somewhat uneven. It is clear that they can be made very valuable instruments for promoting public health, but their success depends largely on the initiative and knowledge of the District Health Officers. In the Rajshahi division and in Dacca district, the system was commented on most favourably. In Bakarganj a falling off in the activity of the public health staff aroused comment, and in Bogra it became

apparent that no plan had been evolved before the cholera epidemic broke out for the proper use of the staff against such an epidemic. The statutory rules defining the duties of sanitary inspectors to which reference was made in last year's resolution, were received favourably: but they cannot take the place of personal instruction and supervision by skilled sanitarians. It is worthy of mention that steps have been taken by the Public Health Department to systematise the work of the health units in the Burdwan division and it is hoped gradually to take similar steps in other divisions. Shortage of supervising staff is the handicap.

The work of the district boards in dealing with diseases will be reviewed elsewhere: but it is convenient here to point out the contrast between the results obtained in Bogra and in Dacca respectively. In both these districts there were serious floods and in both a cholera epidemic was therefore to be apprehended. The Dacca district board took special measures of precaution which averted an epidemic altogether: in Bogra, for the reason already mentioned, cholera assumed epidemic form and the death roll was heavy. Local conditions were dissimilar, but differences in organisation were undoubtedly to a great extent responsible for the difference in the results obtained. Similarly as regards vaccination the value of organisation was apparent in the systematic campaign carried out by the Malda and Rangpur boards which had fixed programmes for dealing with the whole population within a limited number of years. The district boards of Jessore and Khulna opened public health laboratories during the year under review for the analysis of samples of foodstuffs.

188. The decrease in expenditure under this head noticed during the two preceding years was checked: the expenditure actually rose from Rs. 1,67,227 to Rs. 1,73,550, but the increase is too slight to indicate any real expansion in the work done. The expenditure decreased in Burdwan and Dacca divisions. Faridpur district alone showed a decrease of Rs. 6,094, though there was no decrease in the staff employed. It is clear that no progress can be expected in this branch of the district boards' work till finances improve. The great difficulty will always be that progress is possible only by changing the whole attitude of the agriculturist towards cattle breeding. The Vice-Chairman of the Bakarganj board remarks that the problem cannot be solved unless each union board maintains a bull; the Commissioner of Rajshahi division points out that it is useless to provide good sires unless the calves are properly fed, which would necessitate the growing of fodder crops; and the prevalence of scrub-bulls is a difficulty which yet remains to be solved. It is obvious that intensive propaganda is necessary: little has been done so far. Lectures and magic Veterinary.

lantern shows were given in the Rajshahi division, especially in fairs and public health exhibitions, and the district board of Nadia made preparations for similar work. But district boards generally regard veterinary work rather as a matter of controlling epidemics than as a means of improving the breed of cattle.

Civil works.

189. The total expenditure on civil works fell from Rs. 54 lakhs to Rs. 51·5 lakhs, out of which Rs. 29 lakhs were spent on communications. This represents a further decrease of Rs. 2 lakhs in the expenditure on communications. From all parts of the province there were complaints of the damage done by motor cars to the roads: but it is obvious that with insufficient repairs the roads must suffer disproportionate damage from motor cars. All divisions save Rajshahi contributed to the reduction. In the Burdwan division, all the districts except Burdwan and Midnapore reduced expenditure on roads: Burdwan spent Rs. 59,600 more on road repairs than in the previous year, while in Midnapore the reduction of Rs. 19,500 under civil works represented savings on establishment. In the Presidency division only Khulna and Nadia did not reduce expenditure on roads: Khulna, with ample funds after cess revaluation, actually increased expenditure on repairs by Rs. 37,387 and on original works by Rs. 30,848. In the districts of the Dacca and Chittagong divisions the decrease under repairs was general although Faridpur and Dacca both showed an increase under original works. In the Rajshahi division moreover, though there was an increase of Rs. 25,644 in the amount spent on communications, the percentage of total expenditure represented by this item fell from 37·3 per cent. to 35·6 per cent. A serious feature was the heavy lapse of budgeted grants which, like the reduction in the budget provision, was due to a fall in the cess receipts. The hope is generally expressed that grants from the proceeds of the motor vehicles tax will prove a remedy: but the reduction in expenditure under civil works compared with 1926-27 amounts to more than Rs. 13 lakhs and the amount available from the proceeds of this tax will be a far smaller sum. It may be mentioned that in Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna and Mymensingh a great deal of work was done towards constructing and repairing roads by way of test relief.

Water-supply.

190. The expenditure on water-supply decreased by nearly half a lakh of rupees and stood at Rs. 6,29,000. Chittagong and Burdwan district boards, which borrowed from Government Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 25,000, respectively, were the only boards to take loans at reduced interest, in the year under review, under the Government scheme started in 1929, out of the provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for the improvement of water-supply. But great activity was shown by many boards in sinking wells. In Bogra

170 tube-wells were sunk (bringing the total in the district up to over 2,000), in Nadia 98, in Midnapore 90, in Murshidabad 88, in Khulna 51 and in Mymensingh 50. In Mymensingh 103 masonry or ferro-concrete wells were constructed. Burdwan, which sank only 7 tube-wells, constructed 94 masonry wells. At least three district boards, those of the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Khulna, employed permanent staffs of workmen to keep tube-wells and pumps in proper repair: other boards would do well to imitate this example as, without some such provision, the money spent on tube-wells will be largely wasted. The Khulna district board excavated 22 tanks while Bakarganj completed six and started five: the total number of reserved tanks under the control of this board rose to 360 and there were 93 under the control of other authorities towards which the board contributed. The Malda district board introduced a system by which the actual work of well sinking and upkeep developed on the union boards: and the Commissioner expresses the view that the provision made by district boards for water-supply would best be used to encourage union boards to provide water-supplies for themselves and to raise taxes for the purpose.

191. As already mentioned one of the outstanding features of the year's work was the further reduction of expenditure on road maintenance and the ever-growing danger that the road system of many districts will fall into complete disrepair. The neglect of roads and the concentration of expenditure on other objects, particularly public health, medical relief and education, is not a policy deliberately adopted by the boards, although these three lines of activity are popular. They had practically no alternative when faced with the necessity for retrenchment. The reduction in cess receipts has placed almost all boards in a difficult position. A few have been driven to divert grants to purposes other than those for which they were specifically given thus involving themselves in even more serious difficulties in subsequent years: but the majority, facing the problem of retrenchment bravely, were compelled to cut down their expenditure on roads. This was forced upon them by the Government policy of giving recurring grants for specific objects on the condition to which the boards had definitely pledged themselves, that the boards would keep up a fixed standard of expenditure on these objects. For this reason they cannot cut down their outlay on public health or on medical relief or on education: they are under statutory obligations to give grants-in-aid to union boards which tax themselves, and in some districts this involves a steady expansion of expenditure: there is but little scope for retrenchment under establishment: and to economise on roads is almost the sole course open to them. In General remarks.

addition, while attempting to work up to the standard which qualifies for the Government grants, they have on occasion failed to reach it: and the result has been delay in obtaining the full grants while the causes of their failure are being investigated: and this again has reacted seriously on their finances. As regards the standard qualifying for the grants which meet the cost of rural health units, the question of their revision and of their temporary relaxation when the boards' incomes have fallen seriously has been for some time under consideration.

On the whole the year's work was encouraging and the district boards made commendable and often successful efforts to do the utmost possible with shrinking resources. Throughout the province, except in Bankura, their relations with the official heads of districts were most satisfactory. One Commissioner commented on the steady growth of an appreciation of the principles of local self-government and another on the proof afforded by recent elections of a growing distaste for mixing politics with administration.

CHAPTER VII.—PRODUCTION OF THE LAND AND CO-OPERATION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year 1931-32.]

Administration.

192. Mr. R. S. Finlow, C.I.E., held charge of the Department throughout the year.

Research and experiment.

193. Four schemes of research which were sanctioned and financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research came into operation. They were a scheme for research into sugarcane crushing and gur-boiling machinery, a scheme for the establishment of a sugarcane seedling station at Dacca, a scheme for the appointment of a Physiological Chemist to investigate the problems of animal nutrition, and a scheme for rice research in western Bengal. The statistical examination of manurial experiments conducted on the experimental farms during the past twenty years which was undertaken with the aid of a grant from the Imperial Council was completed and reports submitted to the Council. Schemes for the improvement of fruits and for the appointment of a cigar-curing and blending expert have also been approved. The Universities of Dacca and Calcutta, financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, continued their research work on the methods of mechanical analysis of soils, particularly with reference to laterite soils, and on the nutrition of rice, and on colloid soil constituents, respectively. The Agricultural Chemist continued his experiments on methods of mechanical analysis of soil with the help of a Physical Assistant appointed under him by the Imperial Council. In the Botanical Section the First Economic Botanist continued to pay most attention to rice, the staple food crop of the province—while work on the survey and selection of varieties was in progress at Dacca and Barisal, Bankura and Suri. Fodder crops were the most important branch of the work which engaged the attention of the Second Economic Botanist. Potato storage experiments were also conducted on a small scale. Investigation into the life history of the white moth borer of sugarcane engaged the attention of the Entomological Section.

Agricultural education.

194. Owing to continued financial depression the prospect of the establishment of the Agricultural Institute at Dacca is

as remote as ever. In connection with the scheme for opening agricultural classes in middle English and high English non-Government schools, a further batch of 15 teachers trained at the Secondary Agricultural School at Dacca, returned to their respective schools in January, 1932, thus making a total of 41 schools in which agricultural classes have been introduced. Some of these schools have made a promising start and their progress so far can be considered satisfactory. The training of further batches of teachers was suspended during the year pending examination of the results of the working of the scheme during the experimental period. The training of bhadralok youths in practical agriculture at the Faridpur farm with the object of settling with them char land in the district is being continued. The third batch of five students completed their training in July 1931. The free primary agricultural schools at Kishorganj and Burirhat which were started as an experimental measure for the training of the sons of cultivators are doing very useful work. These schools are now full to their maximum capacity. Greater attention is also being paid by the department to the training of the sons of silk worm rearers.

Farms.

195. The number of private farms has increased from 165 to 215, 154 in west Bengal, 50 in north Bengal and 11 in east Bengal. All these farms grow departmental seeds, follow departmental recommendations and thus render definite help in the demonstration of agricultural improvements to the cultivators.

Seed distribution.

196. In collaboration with district officers, 5,000 maunds of departmental aman paddy were successfully distributed in north Bengal. Crop cutting tests have shown that departmental seeds have yielded on an average about 5 maunds per acre more than local seed. The number of sugarcane cuttings distributed from Government farms during the year was 52 lakhs, a large increase on the previous year, the demand greatly exceeding the supply. Two hundred and ten maunds of D.154 and 610 maunds of Chinsura green jute were distributed.

Agricultural engineering.

197. In the agricultural engineering section much of the time of the Agricultural Engineer was occupied in experiments in the crushing of cane and the manufacture of gur and sugar. The cane power mill tested last year was further improved and strengthened. An improved gur furnace was also designed and erected. Other machinery designed were three types of bullock driven irrigation pumps, a power driven pug mill for preparing gur for contrifuging and a juice filter.

Sericulture.

198. Work in the sericultural section continued to be carried out on the same lines as in previous years, particular attention

being paid to the reduction of the cost of production. It was recognised that the primary economic object was to stimulate trade in silk in Bengal, and as it was believed that defective reeling was one of the main obstacles to the establishment of the industry on a sound footing, measures were taken for the introduction of the reeling and twisting of silk on up-to-date lines. Two sericultural officers and the Inspector of technical and industrial institutions were deputed to Mysore to study the working of the sericulture department there. Several types of machinery in use in Mysore have been purchased by the Agricultural and Industries Department for the Piasbari sericultural nursery and the Berhampore silk weaving institute. The sericultural department now supplies pure strain seeds of four multivoltine varieties and one univoltine race.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1931-32.]

Character of the Season.

199. Rainfall in March and April was sufficient for preparatory tillage and for the sowing of jute and paddy in east and north Bengal. In the first week of May good weather facilitated further sowing of autumn crops resulting in an increased area under autumn rice. From the second week of the month rainfall was excessive and proved unfavourable for jute plants in the lowland tracts. In the highland tract the crop thrived well. Rainfall in June benefited the growth of germinated kharif crops and helped the sowing of transplanted paddy in seed-beds. The rainfall in July was beneficial for the transplanting of winter paddy except in west Bengal where more rain was needed. Towards the end of July high floods caused damage to the standing crops, especially to autumn and winter rice in the water-logged tracts of east and north Bengal; but elsewhere the conditions were generally satisfactory. Rainfall in August and September enabled a large area to be brought under cultivation for winter rice. Good rainfall in October materially helped the growth and final development of the transplanted paddy. Sowings of spring crops generally commenced about the usual time, but the drought which prevailed till the end of January somewhat retarded the growth of early crops. Late sown crops on the other hand benefited by the light rainfall in February. On the whole, the season was good for winter rice and satisfactory for autumn and spring crops.

Area and outturn of bhadoi, aghani and rabi crops.

200. The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1931-32 of bhadoi, aghani and rabi crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous years:—

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1930-31 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1931-32 in acres.	The outturn for the year, taking 100 to represent the normal outturn per acre.	
				1930-31.	1931-32.
Bhadoi	9,585,500	9,025,000	8,694,800	81	81
Aghani—					
Winter rice	16,442,400	15,120,300	15,571,400	100	100
Sugarcane	199,700	198,500	233,400	92	86
Other sugar producing plants	55,400	52,700	54,900	..	..
Rabi	4,794,400	4,002,300	4,120,900	82	79
Total ..	31,077,400	28,398,800	28,675,400	..	..

Bhadoi crops (excepting jute).

201. The weather was generally favourable for the sowing and growing of the crops. Towards the end of July when harvesting was progressing high floods caused damage in the waterlogged tracts of east and north Bengal. Elsewhere a good outturn was reaped. On the whole the season was satisfactory for the crops. The outturn of the different bhadoi crops of the Presidency was estimated at 81 per cent. of the normal both this year and the last.

Jute.

202. Sowing were carried out in favourable circumstances generally. Afterwards excessive rain in May did damage in parts of Mymensingh. Elsewhere conditions remained suitable and the crop made progress. Towards the end of July the Brahmaputra was flooded to a record level and did some damage in riparian areas. The damage, however, was not appreciable except in the bhil tracts in Pabna. Some damage also took place in Bogra and to a smaller extent in parts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Faridpur. The area and outturn, excluding those of the Cooch-Bihar and Tripura States, were respectively estimated at 1,596,700 acres and 4,982,700 bales of 400 lb. each.

Winter rice crops.

203. The weather was generally favourable for preparatory tillage and for the sowing of broadcast paddy in east and north Bengal. Transplantation of winter paddy also progressed favourably. Towards the end of July high floods caused damage in the riparian tracts of east and north Bengal and temporarily checked the progress of transplantation in the affected areas. Subsequent rainfall was responsible for a large increase in the area under this crop. Good rainfall in October materially helped the growth and final development of the transplanted paddy. Afterwards the

weather continued dry and was generally helpful to the reaping and thrashing operations of the crop. On the whole there was a good outturn of this crop. The average outturn for the province, both this year and the last, was estimated at 100 per cent. of the normal.

Sugarcane.

204. The weather during the early stages and also during the period of growth was generally favourable except in Dacca, Mymensingh and Pabna where in the latter part of July damage was caused by heavy rain and flood. The condition was also satisfactory during the harvesting period. The outturn for the Province was 86 per cent. of the normal this year, as against 92 per cent. last year.

Rabi crops.

205. The rainfall in October and the first part of November was in excess of the normal. The preparatory tillage and sowing of the crops which commenced generally about the usual time were a little delayed in some east and north Bengal districts. Subsequently dry weather in the second week of November proved helpful to the germination and growth of the crops. Later there was drought which was prolonged up till the end of January and affected the growth of the early sown crops to some extent, while late sown crops benefited by light rainfall in February. On the whole, the season was satisfactory for the crops. The outturn of the various rabi crops for the Province was 79 per cent. of the normal as against 82 per cent. last year.

Cotton.

206. Prolonged showers in October and the beginning of November affected the early crop in the important areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and in the Tripura State. Elsewhere a better outturn was reaped. The outturn of the late crop was satisfactory. The total outturn of cotton (both early and late), excluding that of the Tripura State, was estimated at 15,087 bales as against 16,405 bales last year.

Area under cultivation.

207. The total cropped area is estimated to be 28,675,400 acres this year as against 28,393,800 acres last year. The figures for the principal crops are shown in the table:—

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1930-31 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1931-32 in acres.
Rice	22,893,100	20,582,000	22,128,800
Foods, grains other than rice	1,933,700	1,507,500	1,579,900
Jute	2,310,300	3,028,300	1,596,700
Oilseeds	1,342,000	1,086,200	1,102,000
Tobacco	290,000	283,900	292,800
Sugarcane	199,700	198,500	233,400

Prices.

208. The harvest of winter rice was generally good. There was a fall in prices which was due to world-wide trade depression. Although the harvest of jute was about half that of the preceding year, the prices generally ruled lower owing to lack of demand for manufactured goods.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1931-32.]

Development.

209. The economic storm that has been sweeping the world has been beating strongly on the co-operative movement. Greater attention has therefore to be devoted to enabling the movement to weather the storm while restriction on fresh registration had naturally to be imposed. In consequence the number of societies of all classes increased from 23,676 to 23,777 or by ·4 per cent. only as against an increase of 5·8 per cent. in the preceding year. The total membership increased from 806,567 to 817,760 or by 1·3 per cent. as against 7·5 per cent. in the preceding year. The working capital rose from Rs. 15·79 lakhs to Rs. 16·33 lakhs or by 3·4 per cent. against 6·4 per cent. in the preceding year. The actual cash employed in the movement rose from Rs. 10·59 crores to Rs. 11·22 crores.

Agricultural credit.

210. The movement continued to be predominantly credit in character. In consequence of the restriction imposed on fresh registration the total number of agricultural credit societies including grain banks increased from 20,172 to 20,195 only. There was, however, a slight fall in the total membership from 476,962 to 470,817. The total working capital rose from Rs. 538 lakhs to Rs. 556 lakhs. The share capital owned by these societies increased from Rs. 52·51 lakhs to Rs. 54·28 lakhs, but members' deposits fell from Rs. 21·95 lakhs to Rs. 20·04 lakhs while the reserve funds rose from Rs. 96·75 to Rs. 115·86 lakhs. The portion of the working capital owned by the societies themselves rose from Rs. 171 lakhs to Rs. 190·19 lakhs or from 31·7 per cent. to 34·1 per cent., while the societies were dependent on central banks for 62·5 per cent. of their working capital as against 65·2 per cent in the preceding year. In pursuance of the policy of great caution adopted in advancing fresh loans, the total loans advanced by these societies to their members fell from Rs. 92·69 lakhs to Rs. 50·18 lakhs. Repayment continued to be unsatisfactory. The situation caused by overfinancing and leniency in the matter of recovery in the past has been greatly aggravated by the prolonged economic crisis accompanied by the continued slump

in the prices of agricultural produce. The need for an improvement in the matter of repayment has now been realised in most areas, but the difficulties in the way were accentuated by the floods which adversely affected several areas in north and east Bengal. The result was that repayments fell further from Rs. 50·79 lakhs or 14·1 per cent. of the amount due at the beginning of the preceding year to Rs. 46·87 lakhs or 10·8 per cent. of the amount due at the beginning of the year under report. The overdues rose in consequence from Rs. 243·88 lakhs or 56·3 per cent. to Rs. 295·80 lakhs or 68·3 per cent. The position created by these overdues has been engaging the attention of the department and of the central banks. Generally speaking, every attempt is now being made to make the best realisation possible in the circumstances. Attention has been directed to the task of improving the bad societies and weeding out the hopeless ones. The task of classifying outstandings with a view to granting reasonable extensions to deserving members and to placing long term loans on a sound basis is also being taken up. The adoption of these measures will, it is hoped, result in a judicious weeding out of bad and hopeless societies and in an improvement in the position of the remaining societies which will thus be able to withstand the difficulties till the return of normal conditions.

Agricultural societies other than credit: (i) Purchase and sale societies.

211. The number of societies of this class fell from 95 to 89, their membership from 12,935 to 12,394 and their total working capital from Rs. 7,13,271 to Rs. 6,81,627. These societies were naturally affected by the general trade depression. The price of paddy continued to be very low and uncertain and the central paddy sale society had also to reduce its commission charges by 25 per cent. with the result that although it handled a larger quantity it had to work at a small loss. The Gosaba paddy sale society with a rice mill attached to it earned a small profit. The Bakarganj Sundarbans central co-operative sale and supply society with a rice mill attached to it worked well. There was a further fall in the sales of the Naogaon ganja cultivators' co-operative society, the total quantity of ganja and bhang sold being 1,945 maunds and 30 seers and 307 maunds and 19 seers respectively, during the year as against 2,156 maunds 26 seers and 324 maunds and 32 seers respectively in the preceding year. The society continued to contribute towards numerous works of local public utility.

(ii) Irrigation societies.

212. The number of irrigation societies increased from 929 to 933 and their membership from 23,747 to 24,075. There is an immense scope for these societies in the Bankura and Birbhum districts which contain as many as 805 of these societies with a total irrigable area of 115,224 bighas.

(iii) Co-operative agricultural associations.

213. The number of these associations fell from 38 to 36. The most important society of this class is the Naogaon agricultural association which is doing good work but which has yet to discontinue the practice of issuing small cash loans to its members.

(iv) Production and sale societies: Milk societies.

214. The total number of milk societies rose from 264 to 267, out of which 117 societies situated in the 24-Parganas, Jessore and Hooghly are affiliated to the Calcutta milk union. The group of societies affiliated to the Calcutta milk union generally continued to prosper, though there was a fall in the profits earned by them owing to the reduction in selling rates. Elsewhere the movement for the collection of milk from the producers for joint sale as milk or milk products continued to struggle against the adverse conditions created by the general economic depression.

(a) Non-agricultural credit societies.

215. The non-agricultural credit societies rose in number from 495 to 512, their membership from 175,460 to 182,510 and their total working capital from Rs. 2,92 lakhs to Rs. 3,16 lakhs. The total paid-up share capital of these societies increased from Rs. 65·64 lakhs to Rs. 69·77 lakhs and the total of their reserve funds from Rs. 17·81 lakhs to Rs. 20·87 lakhs. They issued fresh loans amounting to Rs. 2,46 lakhs as against Rs. 2,30 lakhs while the total recoveries amounted to Rs. 2,09 lakhs as against Rs. 1,84 lakhs of the previous year. The overdues, however, rose from Rs. 25·75 lakhs or 9 per cent. to Rs. 37·48 lakhs or 13 per cent. These societies earned a total profit of Rs. 10·45 lakhs during the year under report as against Rs. 9·67 lakhs in the preceding year. Although the middle classes who form the membership of these societies lack the landed security and close contact required for the unlimited liability of an agricultural credit society, in so far as they furnish stability of character and occupation they provide promising materials out of which a co-operative structure can be built. In so far as these societies are composed of regular salary earners, not only do their provident funds and their anxiety to retain their posts furnish a good security against advances but the arrangement for the deductions of the instalments of repayments from their salaries reduces the risk of default to a minimum, while the general level of education of the members, the position held by them and the supervision by their official superiors to which they are subject, generally ensure sufficiently satisfactory management. The prosperity of societies of this type continues unabated and there seems no reason why this should not be the case so long as sufficient safeguards are enforced against lax supervision on the part of the managing committee and positive dishonesty on the part of their servants. Another flourishing group of societies in this class is the depressed classes' society, especially those among sweepers

employed by municipalities. These societies promise not only to assist their members to clear their outside debts but also act as a powerful lever for promoting better living and temperance among them.

(b) Stores and supply societies.

216. This section of the movement still shows few signs of life. The number of societies of this class fell by 1 to 54, while their total membership rose from 5,754 to 10,252 but their total sales declined in value from Rs. 3·83 lakhs to Rs. 2·81 lakhs.

(c) Artisans' societies.

217. In the Presidency division the Madhyamgram chikan society was placed under liquidation. In the Burdwan division the Illambazar toy makers' society is working on a credit basis. The Gholesara hangsabanik society in Hooghly has ceased work and will have to be closed down. Four out of the 5 conch-shell makers' societies in Bankura continued to work on a credit basis. In the Rajshahi division the society of oil pressers at Ghatagaon in the Rajshahi district worked on a credit basis. The working of the blacksmiths' society at Sutanara in Pabna has been far from satisfactory. The society of tinplate workers at Dinajpur worked at a small loss though it was able to secure contracts from local bodies. The society of carpenters at Kamarpur in the Pabna district will probably have to be closed down. In the Dacca division the Bikrampur patikar samity in Faridpur continued to work at a loss. The Samlashir sutradhar samity earned a small profit by working on a credit basis. The 8 conch-shell workers' societies at Dacca did not do any work during the year and the relations between them and the Dacca industrial union were most strained. In the Chittagong division the Brahmanbaria braziers' society has been working at a loss and the management should apply itself to the realisation of its outstandings on credit sales in which a considerable portion of its working capital has been locked up. The Pahartali oilmen's society was placed under liquidation. The Pathantuli agrabad joutha silpa samity which had suspended its rope-making business after sustaining a heavy loss is now working on a credit basis. The Mirjapur potters' society is under reconstitution. The Amirabad-Mahadebpur gur manufacturing society worked on a small profit. It has obtained a plot of khas mahal land on which sugarcane is grown and the society has a machine for crushing the cane. The produce found a sale.

(d) Fishermen's societies.

218. The number of these societies decreased from 112 with a total membership of 4,507 to 108 with a total membership of 4,153. Out of these societies 90 are on an unlimited liability basis. Internal dissensions broke out in the Captain Bheri society in the 24-Parganas which had commenced work after

obtaining undisputed possession of the fishery of that name as a result of protracted litigation and unless these differences can be composed the future of the society seems gloomy. The Ballavpur society in Midnapore is still engaged in defending the suit brought against it by the Narajole estate in respect of the Cossye fishery, the lease of which was granted to the society by the Collector of Midnapore. In the meantime it is working a local ferry ghat leased to it by the Collector. The condition of the Mymensingh fishery societies did not improve. The suit against the fishery right of the Nayanadi rathkhola society in Dacca was decided against it and the society will have now to be closed down. The Dhaleswari-Meghna-Padma society in Tippera which had a lease of a fishery from the Collector of Dacca continued to work at a loss. The lower Ganges fishermen's society in Pabna which did not succeed in obtaining a lease of a fishery had to work on a credit basis. Most of the other societies of this class worked on a credit basis.

(e) Weavers' societies.

219. The number of weavers' societies fell from 340 with a total membership of 6,145 to 336 with a total membership of 6,103. These societies were seriously affected by the economic depression on the one hand and by increasing competition by mill-made cloths on the other. Of these societies the sales of the Bagerhat weaving union, which is a cotton mill run on a co-operative basis, fell in value from Rs. 43,251 to Rs. 20,476 and it worked at a loss of Rs. 4,592. The Bankura group of societies affiliated to the Bankura industrial union fell in number from 61 to 56; out of which 45 are working, 8 have stopped work and 3 did not commence business. Several of the societies affiliated to the Chaumuhani union had to work at a loss. The experiments made for the weaving of jute continued at Naogaon and Nilphamari, but their products did not find a ready market. The society at Nilphamari suffered a loss of Rs. 215 though it was successful in turning out carpets of a superior type. A new society for the spinning and weaving of wool and cotton at Kalimpong started work during the year.

(f) Silk societies.

220. The number of cocoon rearers' societies fell from 80 to 77. Of these societies 62 are in Malda. The total working capital of these societies fell slightly from Rs. 93,333 to Rs. 92,186 but the total amount of profits earned by them as a whole rose from Rs. 786 to Rs. 1,485. The Dopukuria silk society, which reels silk in filature, has been experiencing difficulty in disposing of its outturn. The Jangipur silk association worked at a small profit. The condition of the Panchgachia silk weaving society is unsatisfactory. The Bishnupur silk weavers' society worked fairly well on a credit basis.

221. The number of these societies stood at four. The Bengal youngmen's zamindary society which has been financially a success, has so far been able to make little progress in the furtherance of the original aim of the society which was to attract educated youngmen to farming. The Tamluk society has its estate in the Balasore district. The land colonization societies in the Chittagong district along with the Chittagong zilla krishi samiti to which they are affiliated have been shown under this class. The Mithasari colonization society has 1,162 acres, out of which only 200 acres are arable and the remainder covered by hillocks. The quantity of arable land available for the members has not been sufficient and it has not yet been possible to secure additional arable land from Government khas mahal. In the Chakavia Sundarbans, known as Badarkhali, the co-operative society of colonists numbering 39 in Block No. 1 has taken over liability for the sum of Rs. 26,786 spent by the zilla krishi samiti in reclaiming and developing the block. The liability was reduced by Rs. 2,258 during the year. The second block covers an area of 1,000 acres which was reclaimed at a cost of Rs. 44,017. There are 106 prospective members. During the year all were allowed to sow broadcast pending selection and approval of members by the Collector with a view to the formation of a society for the block. A bumper crop was reaped. The zilla samity derived an income of Rs. 1,745 by the sale of firewood from the third block the reclamation of which has not yet been taken up. Some expenditure was, however, incurred upon the excavation of a tank and in making a demarcation.

(g) Zamindary societies.

222. The total number of registered societies of this class rose from 811 to 865 and their membership from 17,497 to 17,971. Many of these societies continued to do useful work in improving public health and sanitation within their respective areas.

(h) Anti-malaria and public health societies.

223. The total number of these societies remained at eight. Of these two are doing useful work. One of them is the Tala mahila samity. The other is the Nari samabaya mandir which sells goods made by the members, and these find a ready sale.

(i) Women's organisation.

224. The number of these societies rose from 39 with a membership of 10,173 and a total working capital of Rs. 2,02,899 to 41 with a membership of 12,852 and a total working capital of Rs. 2,79,817. These societies continued to do useful work and there is a growing appreciation of the benefits which the members and their dependents have been deriving from them.

(j) Miscellaneous relief societies.

225. The number of these societies increased from 6 to 7. They generally worked well, the foremost among them being the societies organised by the rural reconstruction department of the Visvabharati at Sriniketan.

Rural reconstruction.

House-building.

226. The Darjeeling society after completing its programme is now engaged in repaying its loan. The Dacca co-operative house building society after completing its programme defaulted in the repayment of the loan outstanding from it owing to mismanagement. The Mymensingh house-building society did not work well and sustained a loss. The Char Fasson mutual benefit and house-building society, limited, worked well. The Calcutta subarban colony, limited, which was registered in September 1930, purchased 93 bighas of land on the Dum-Dum Road at a cost of Rs. 76,678 which the society managed to pay itself. The land has been parcelled into 59 building plots, all of which have been allotted to members with the exception of three plots, which the society has retained for building a school and an office. So far one house has been constructed and three houses are now under construction.

Bengal home crofters' association.

227. The idea of this organisation on a co-operative basis emerged as a corollary of the co-operative anti-malaria movement with a view to saving the anti-malaria societies the cost involved in the periodical clearance of jungles. The home crofters' association has been doing useful work by assisting the members to grow kitchen gardens on their land which would have otherwise been waste and covered over with jungle.

The Bengal co-operative provident insurance society, limited.

228. Since the reconstitution of the Bengal co-operative provident insurance society towards the end of the preceding year the society has been just paying its way. The society has recently consulted some actuaries and, in the light of this expert advice, is now engaged in examining its scheme of business with a view to placing it on a sound basis.

The Bengal provincial co-operative industrial society limited.

229. This society has a membership of 13, with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 5,025. Owing to trade depression its sales fell in value from Rs. 58,995 to Rs. 11,569, while the society supplied raw materials to the affiliated societies to the value of Rs. 97,706 as against Rs. 4,27,517 in the preceding year. Although the society has curtailed its working expenses considerably it was unable to work at a profit.

The Bengal co-operative silk union.

230. During the year under report this union advanced Rs. 18,302 as loans to 34 societies of cocoon rearers affiliated to it and realised Rs. 30,099, while the balance outstanding from these societies at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 34,680. The goods purchased from its members amounted to Rs. 37,598 in value, while the sales amounted to Rs. 54,248. The profits earned by the union fell from Rs. 7,161 to Rs. 4,835. The union has made considerable progress in its silk cloth business and it

is now in a position to supply to a great measure not only the local, but also the outside market with its manufactured products which consist of a wide range of piecegoods.

Central banks.

231. There was no addition to the number of central banks which remained at 119. Two of the central banks which had been organised during the last year at Barguna and Amtoli, Bakarganj, have not yet started work and their registration will be cancelled. The total number of societies affiliated to the remaining 117 central banks increased slightly from 20,278 to 20,320, while their working capital rose from Rs. 488·69 lakhs to Rs. 495·75 lakhs. The total paid-up share capital rose from Rs. 53·32 lakhs to Rs. 53·55 lakhs and the reserve and other funds from Rs. 30·53 lakhs to Rs. 35·93 lakhs. The total amount of owned capital of these banks rose from 17·1 per cent. to 18·1 per cent. of the total working capital. Deposits from individuals rose from Rs. 276·12 to Rs. 278·70 lakhs, while loans obtained from the Bengal provincial co-operative bank declined from Rs. 122·55 lakhs to Rs. 120·39 lakhs. Now loans advanced by the central banks to their affiliated societies fell naturally in the circumstances of the year from Rs. 102·74 lakhs to Rs. 80·43 lakhs. The total repayments by these societies fell from Rs 90·17 lakhs to Rs. 87·24 lakhs—the percentage of repayment being 21·5 per cent. of the amount outstanding at the beginning of the year as against 23·5 per cent. in the preceding year. The total collections on account of principal and interest taken together rose from Rs. 124·38 lakhs to Rs. 131·73 lakhs—that is by Rs. 7·35 lakhs. The total profits earned by the central banks fell from Rs. 8·81 lakhs to Rs. 8·13 lakhs. These figures, however, include much in the shape of overdue interest. The cost of management was reduced from Rs. 7·11 lakhs to Rs. 6·90 lakhs.

The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank.

232. The working capital of this bank rose from Rs. 199·65 lakhs to Rs. 204·84 lakhs, the paid-up share capital from Rs. 16·45 lakhs to Rs. 16·53 lakhs, the reserve fund from Rs. 2·79 lakhs to Rs. 3·48 lakhs and the special reserve fund from Rs. 2·79 lakhs to Rs. 7·02 lakhs. Deposits from members and non-members taken together rose from Rs. 177·62 lakhs to Rs. 177·80 lakhs. New loans issued during the year amounted to Rs. 13·23 lakhs, while with the repayment received during the year amounted to Rs. 15 lakhs. The Provincial Bank maintained adequate fluid resources and its progress has not been unsatisfactory in view of the adverse economic and financial conditions which obtained during the year. During the year a guarantee was given by Government to the grant of a cash credit up to Rs. 30 lakhs by the Imperial Bank of India in favour of the

Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, but it has not yet been necessary for the Provincial Bank to utilise this credit.

The Bengal co-operative organization society.

233. There was a considerable increase in the number of societies affiliated to the Bengal co-operative organisation society, the number of such societies rising from 16,084 to 17,327. The society continued to do valuable propaganda and publicity work on behalf of the movement.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other Gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1931-32.]

Royal Botanic Garden.

234. During the year cyclones caused the loss of some valuable and almost unique garden specimens the most important among which was the magnificient ficus altissima at the ghat entrance to the garden. Work in the herbarium went on as usual in connection with identification, acquisition, loan of specimens and distribution. Some 1,575 specimens were sent to institutions abroad. Over 3,000 genera covers were renewed and brought into line in respect of nomenclature with modern monographs dealing with their contents. Phanerogamic species numbering 1,100 were identified and 634 sheets, including two new species of impatiens from Madras and about 46 duplicates from the United States National Museum, Washington, were received. Over half a ton of aleurites fordii, the tung oil yielding species, was obtained for distribution. Tung oil is greatly in demand in commerce as a quick drying oil for the paint trade. Very many firms in India, especially those interested in tea growing, have undertaken to experiment with it and records already received from some quarters show that fair germination has been obtained. Two plants of elephant's foot, testudinaria elephantipes, were successfully imported from Africa through the aid of the South African Department of Agriculture and they are doing well. The Curator's special interest in the algæ as a group of plants is gaining recognition. Algological work is of considerable importance economically, for the presence of these organisms in town water-supplies and their relation to pisciculture make them a matter of importance to the specialist. In connection with the proposal for the construction of a building on the Calcutta Electric Supply Company's tunnel exit at the garden, negotiations are in progress for the utilisation of the upper storey of the building as a public kiosk. If the scheme materialises it is hoped that a long-felt want will be removed and the amenities of the garden improved.

Calcutta gardens.

235. The triangular plot of shrubs facing the High Court was converted into a flower bed. Some 25 new trees were planted out and 40 new additions made to the plant house. The general condition of the garden, and especially the western half of the Eden Garden, showed some improvement in the course of the year.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.

236. Of special interest is the Curator's success in growing species of meconopsis. The experiment is of some importance, for there is a steady demand for meconopsis seed and the proximity of Darjeeling to the natural habitat of these plants would give this garden an advantage over others if a supply of seed could be grown regularly. The improvements made in the garden include the establishment of a rose garden and the reconditioning of the garden tank. Some 400 trees and shrubs were planted out. Seeds to the number of 2,412 packets, 645 plants, over 12,000 seedlings and 136 bulbs were distributed. Collections of higher alpine seeds and plants were made. Plants were also collected and despatched for His Majesty's Royal Park.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1931-32.]

Plantations.

237. The total area calculated as bearing a full complement of cinchona trees was at the end of the year 2,789 acres. Extensions comprising 195 acres were carried out during the year under review. A harvest of 11,79,472 lb. of bark was collected during the year in both the Mungpoo and Munsong plantations, viz., 3,25,982 lb. in Mungpoo mainly from thinnings, the uprooting of dead and dying trees and the coppicing of two old ledger blocks and 8,53,490 lb. in Munsong, against 1,476,054 lb. in the previous year. In Mungpoo, cultivation was necessarily restricted during the year owing to the reduced budget provision as also on account of the large amount of nursery work but every effort was made to keep the young blocks as clean as possible and hoeing was freely carried out during the dry weather. In Munsong, the storing of the bark stock presented a difficult problem, as temporary erections had to be utilised which could not be considered safe from the risk of fire and damage to the bark by damp and leakage. In addition to the heavy programme under cinchona, an area of about 150 acres of old cinchona land was reafforested with birch, alder and Japanese pines and a certain amount of sal seed collected and sown direct on the drier ridges of Silake where it occurs naturally.

Factory. 238. Altogether 1,101,356 lb. of dried bark were used in the factory during the year of which 1,072,255·5 lb. were Bengal bark and the rest other bark belonging to the Government of India. Bengal bark produced during the year 43,534 lb. crude quinine sulphate and 13,079 lb. cinchona febrifuge. From the purified stock of quinine sulphate in hand 13,920 lb. were converted into 3,544 lb. and 96,972 boxes of quinine sulphate tablets. Of the cinchona febrifuge powder 3,723 lb. were converted into tablets. Other quinine salts amounting to 766 lb. were also produced. From the Java bark 1,536 lb. of quinine sulphate and 459 lb. of cinchona febrifuge were extracted during the year. The cost of the extraction of quinine sulphate was Rs. 2·721 per lb. and that of cinchona febrifuge Rs. 1·820 per lb. The total cost of the crude quinine sulphate including the cost in bark, viz., Rs. 4·5 per lb., was Rs. 7·221 per lb.

Finance. 239. The gross receipts during the year were Rs. 6,89,906 and after deducting Rs. 2,267 due to the Government of India as the charge for excess extraction and the sales of that Government's products, Rs. 34,925 due to the Jail Department for distribution charges and also Rs. 57,753 outstanding on 31st March 1932 on account of sales including the cost of manufacture of the products of the Government of India, the net receipts amounted to Rs. 5,94,961 against Rs. 5,95,713 in the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,39,476 and was higher by Rs. 31,043 while the receipts were lower by Rs. 752 than in the previous year. The profit balance on the year's working amounted to Rs. 2,10,564. It is satisfactory that receipts from sales showed an increase during the year.

General. 240. Although all the febrifuge which can be produced is being sold and although Government are supplying quinine sulphate powder to hospitals and other institutions at a rate much below the market price, the stocks of quinine sulphate powder continue to increase and large quantities of bark are becoming ripe for harvest every year. During recent times harvests have much exceeded the capacity of the factory and some years must elapse before equality in bark production and extraction is reached. Provincial stocks of dry bark awaiting process were 1,351,194 lb. at the end of 1931-32, while the provincial reserve of quinine had reached the total of 108,815 lb. Besides this there are stocks of over 200,000 lb. of quinine belonging to the Government of India awaiting distribution in the northern India area lying outside Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and Assam. The problem of disposal of quinine stocks is therefore pressing, and it is desirable to realise a considerable part of the capital which is locked up in them. The problem of disposal of these stocks is by

no means free from complications and difficulties and as the Government of India have also a large accumulation of stock, it is obviously desirable that whatever steps be taken for the disposal or reduction of stock, should be taken in consultation with the Government of India. Another important factor is that Government have been supplying the requirements of local bodies and hospitals at favourable rates. In a province where malaria is prevalent such a policy is beneficial to the public and if local bodies, employers of labour on a large scale and organisations interested in the promotion of public health, co-operate with Government in increasing the consumption of quinine available for supply at favourable rates, with such safeguards as may be necessary to prevent profiteering, the stock will be more rapidly reduced with beneficial results to public health and the finances of the province.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending the 31st March 1932.]

Formation of ranges in the Sundarbans.

241. The scheme for the formation of ranges in the Sundarbans forest division has been given effect to and 3 motor launches out of the 5 motor launches necessary for the 5 ranges were completed during the year. The cost of maintaining the launches and flats of the Sundarbans division came to Rs. 58,132 as against Rs. 55,005 in the previous year. The range scheme is an imperative necessity in order to prevent continual decline of revenue and gradual depletion of the Sundarbans forests which, in the last normal year 1929-30, produced a gross revenue of no less than Rs. 8·98 lakhs out of a total of Rs. 30·52 lakhs for the whole of Bengal. The financial situation and the great fall in forest income, however, have unfortunately prevented expenditure on many other profitable schemes.

Area.

242. The area of reserved forests increased from 6,506 to 6,561 square miles. The increase was in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar divisions. The area of protected and unclassed forests remained unaltered. The total area of forests thus increased from 10,624 to 10,679 square miles or 13·90 per cent. of the total area of the Presidency. In the Northern Circle no new reservations were made during the year. In the Southern Circle the areas finally settled were 36 square miles in addition to 19 square miles declared in the previous year. During the year demarcation of 141 miles of exterior boundaries of new reserves in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar divisions was completed at a cost of Rs. 6,646.

The topographical survey of the Tripura State undertaken by the survey of India to settle the dispute with that State about the boundary of the Maini head water reserve in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is expected to be carried out in 1932-33. The Survey of India did not survey any forest areas during the year. The preparation of four-inch photographic enlargements of forest maps in Northern Bengal was in progress.

Communications and buildings.

243. Only Rs. 6,000 was spent on the construction of roads and bridges against Rs. 12,000 in the previous year. The total expenditure incurred on the construction of new buildings was Rs. 34,910 against Rs. 25,636 in the previous year. The cost of repairs to buildings was Rs. 46,200 against Rs. 43,160 in 1930-31.

Working plans.

244. The revised working plans for the Darjeeling and Buxa divisions were sanctioned during the year. The working plan for the Kurseong division is ready for printing. The revised working plan for the forests of the Sundarbans division was sanctioned after the close of the year but the prescriptions were brought into effect from the 1st April 1931. The prescriptions of the working plans were followed as far as circumstances permitted and all deviations were duly sanctioned.

Utilisation.

245. Departmental operations were carried on in the Kurseong, Jalpaiguri and Buxa divisions. In the Kurseong division owing to heavy wind falls caused by cyclones sal was extracted departmentally on a larger scale than usual. In the Jalpaiguri and Buxa divisions departmental operations were reduced owing to the slump in the timber market and the decrease in the demand of railways for sleepers. The sale of round sal timber at the Government timber depot at Siliguri decreased from 21,077 cubic feet to 20,789 cubic feet but the sale of sawn sal increased by about 8,000 cubic feet and in spite of considerable reductions in sale prices the gross revenue collected on mill account increased by nearly Rs. 11,000. The trading account of the Siliguri saw mill, however, showed a loss of Rs. 982 on the year's working. This result is due to writing down of stock and to the fact that defective and unsaleable logs supplied to the mill had been valued at the highest market rates for good selected timber. In accordance with the terms of the supplementary agreement with the India Paper Pulp Company, Limited, the public were allowed to extract bamboos from the Kassalong reserve in the Chittagong Hill Tracts division. The royalty realised from them was Rs. 18,445 or Rs. 8,445 more than the minimum royalty of Rs. 10,000 payable by the Company under the agreement.

246. For the second year in succession serious damage was caused by a cyclone in the Northern Circle. This year the Sevoke blocks of the Kurseong division suffered considerably. It is estimated that about 4 lakhs of cubic feet of sal were blown down and that there was another lakh of cubic feet in the trees which were dying as the result of torn tap-roots. **Natural calamities.**

247. There was a further fall in the outturn of various kinds of forest produce. The revenue, expenditure and surplus during the year, compared with the previous year, are shown below:— **Financial results.**

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1930-31	23,12,049	15,93,037	7,19,012
1931-32	16,94,479	16,60,534	33,945

All divisions except Dacca-Mymensingh shared in the heavy decrease, which was mainly due to the economic distress and world-wide trade depression. The increase in expenditure was in the Southern Circle and was mainly due to the payment of 50 per cent. overhead charges for the repair of launches at the Government dockyard, Narayanganj, and the construction of boats and dinghis and the purchase of launches for the range scheme in the Sundarbans division.

248. The total value of the sales of forest produce during the year amounted to Rs. 12,78,704 against Rs. 18,07,827 in the previous year showing a decrease in sales of Rs. 5,29,123. The value of forest produce granted free of royalty was Rs. 60,721 against Rs. 55,317 of the previous year. The total value of minor produce disposed of at scheduled rates amounted to Rs. 5,18,222 against Rs. 5,59,110 in the previous year. Three rhinoceros horns weighing 279 tolas in all were sold for Rs. 3,139 during the year. The attempt to find a market for haritaki (terminalia chebula), amlaki (albizzia stipulata), bahera (terminalis balerica) and ritha (sapindus emarginatus) has not been successful. The total outstanding revenue at the close of the year was Rs. 2,53,255 against Rs. 3,11,051 in 1930-31. Although the Southern Circle showed much improvement, the outstandings in the Northern Circle increased owing to the slump in the timber market and the consequent difficulty of realising dues from purchasers. The total number of elephants on the stock list in the two circles at the close of the year was 25 including two calves. One elephant in the Southern Circle died during the **General.**

year. In the Northern Circle four persons were killed by tigers and one forest guard was severely wounded by a wild boar in the Buxa division. In the Sundarbans division of the Southern Circle five persons were killed by tigers as compared with eight in the previous year. Three persons were killed by crocodiles. Rogue elephants killed five men and a tiger killed one in other divisions. Rs. 850 was paid as rewards for killing 6 tigers. Rs. 350 was also paid as rewards by the Collector of the 24-Parganas for killing 4 tigers outside the Sundarbans forest division. The number of permits issued for shooting deer in the Sundarbans division was 43 against 161 in the previous year. Special measures were taken against rhinoceros poaching and an Act has been passed for protection of rhinoceros. Killing of deer by parties of tea garden coolies armed with bows and arrows is reported from Jalpaiguri division. The collection of tolls for fishing in the Sundarbans rivers in the district of Khulna was started from the 17th November 1931. The revenue collection of the Forest department from this source amounted to Rs. 3,489 during the year. The Barkal revenue station in the Chittagong Hill Tracts division was abolished from the 1st September 1931, as the Government of Assam have reopened from the 1st June 1931 their revenue station at Baraharina for the collection of revenue on forest produce removed from the Lushai Hills.

CHAPTER VIII.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Industries Department.

[Report on the administration of tho Industries Department for the year 1931-32.]

General.

249. Reference was made in the last year's review to the abnormal economic situation caused by the world-wide trade depression and the consequential financial stringency which resulted in departmental activities being rigorously restricted. The same conditions prevailed throughout the year under review. There was therefore not only no scope for the initiation of new schemes of development but normal activities had to be further curtailed in several directions.

Research and demonstration.

250. Departmental activities in the chemical, engineering, tanning and weaving sections succeeded in assisting the development of small factory industries. The activities of the chemical section have given an impetus to the development of the soap industry on up-to-date lines and have resulted in the utilisation of local sources of vegetable oils which hitherto had little or no economic use.

(*a*) Chemical section.

(*b*) Engineering section.

251. Steps were also taken during the year towards the development of the silk industry in Bengal. It is recognised that improvement in the technique of reeling of silk is of paramount importance in reviving the industry and, with a view to bringing home to the reelers the advantage of reeling with modern machinery, a domestic reeling plant and hand-twisting machine of the Mysore pattern were installed at the Government Silk Weaving and Dyeing Institute at Berhampore.

Bengal Tanning Institute.

252. The Bengal Tanning Institute maintained its record of usefulness in the different spheres of its activities—research, instruction, demonstration and propaganda. The most outstanding feature is the large increase of small scale and cottage tanning in Calcutta. The old small tanneries substantially increased their output and several new tanneries were started. The small chrome tanners were responsible for the production of nearly 50 lakhs of square feet of chrome upper leather (crude box sides) valued at about 12 lakhs of rupees during the year, which represented an increase of nearly three to four hundred per cent. over the previous year's outturn. It is recognised that the Institute has had a large share in achieving this result. The boot and shoe making classes

attached to the Institute attracted Bengali youths to the boot and shoe leather goods industry.

Technical education.

253. Technical education in all its branches including weaving received due attention. Work in the various technical and industrial institutions continued on the usual lines.

Bengal State Aid to Industries Bill.

254. The Bengal State Aid to Industries Bill was passed into law during the year under report. A representative board under the designation of the Board of Industries has subsequently been constituted for carrying out the purposes of the Act.

Manufacture and Mines.

Jute.

255. The area under jute cultivation, including that of the Cooch Behar and Tripura States, during 1931-32 was 1,613,700 (revised) acres against 3,062,300 in the previous year. The total outturn was 5,002,700 bales against 9,966,000 bales in the preceding year. Although the number of jute mills at work during the year rose to 94 against 91 in the preceding year, the average number of operatives employed during the year fell from 293,387 to 264,451; the number of looms and spindles at work was 58,639 and 1,171,810 respectively as against 62,647 and 1,233,889 in 1930-31. The heavy fall in the number of operatives was partly accounted for by the change over in a number of mills from the multiple to the single shift system during 1931, but the main cause was the decline in trade, which led to the jute mills in the membership of the Indian Jute Mills Association closing down 15 per cent. of their looms during the year.

The authorized capital in rupees, sterling and dollars as reported by 86 mills was Rs. 22,93,82,000; £3,175,000 and $12,000,000. Eight mills, being either proprietary or private concerns, did not disclose their capital.

Cotton.

256. Fourteen cotton mills were at work during the year employing on an average 18,073 operatives as against thirteen mills with 17,920 operatives in 1930-31. The number of looms and spindles at work were 4,943 and 340,862 respectively as against 4,819 and 340,004 during the preceding year.

Silk.

257. The number of silk factories working under the Indian Factories Act, 1911, remained at two as in the three preceding years. The average number of persons employed during the year fell to 310 against 472 in the preceding year. The total production of disease-free seed cocoons during the year was 52,809 kahans against 48,115 kahans in the previous year. Of these 2,842 kahans

were produced in the Government nurseries and 24,397 kahans were raised by private agencies under Government supervision.

258. Although there has been no increase in the number of sugar mills which come under the operation of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, the area under sugar crop shows a steady increase since 1926-27 when the acreage was 251,800. During the year under report the acreage under sugar crop was 288,300 against 262,300 acres in 1930-31. There were two small sugar grinding mills employing on an average 31 persons daily. **Sugar.**

259. The area under tea cultivation in 1931 was 207,633 acres, including that of the Tripura State, against 207,507 acres (revised) in 1930. The quantity of tea manufactured during the year was 90,096,271 lb. as against 98,240,513 lb. in 1930. The total number of tea plantations was 393 employing on an average 184,539 permanent and 7,410 temporary hands daily. The number of tea factories under the operation of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, was 286 and the total average daily number of operatives employed therein was 15,151 excluding those employed in the gardens outside the factory premises. **Tea.**

260. During 1931 the number of coal mines under the operation of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, was 206 against 208 in the preceding year. The daily average number of persons employed in these mines was 44,642. The total output of coal raised during the year fell to 5,810,184 tons against 6,316,528 tons in the previous year. The supply of labour was ample. There was no general reduction of wages, but owing to the depressed state of the coal trade working hours were reduced and consequently the amount of money earned by the labourers was less. The number of coal mines using electric power was 51 and the number of mechanical ventilators and safety lamps in use was 29 and 11,071 respectively against 23 and 10,946 in 1930. The number of women employed underground was 5,596 or 17·94 per cent. of the total number of persons both male and female employed underground in the coal mines. Notwithstanding the continued depression in the trade, prices of coal were fairly well maintained in the early part of the year as the result of co-operation within the industry, but towards the end there was a break in prices. The forced selling of stocks at the collieries led to an average drop in prices of about one rupee per ton. The shipment of coal from Calcutta showed a slight increase as compared with the previous year. The increase was due perhaps to the reopening of the Hongkong market to Indian coal. A fair business was done in bunker coal but the average price paid was lower than in 1930. The good work done by the Indian Coal Grading Board since its establishment in 1926 continued **Coal.**

during the year. The Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee started operations in July 1930 and did extensive propaganda work during the year which seems to have increased the demand for soft coke.

Paper.

261. There were three paper mills at work during the year employing on an average 4,214 persons daily. They produced 29,362 tons of paper valued approximately at Rs. 1,35,82,520.

Wool.

262. As in the previous year only the Dacca Central Jail woollen mill (10 looms and 288 spindles) was at work during the year. It employed on an average 126 persons daily and produced 102,372 lb. of blankets, valued approximately at Rs. 76,779.

Saltpetre.

263. There was only one licensed saltpetre refinery at work. It produced 62 maunds of refined saltpetre against 76 maunds in the previous year. No pure salt was educed in the process of refinement nor was there any production of impure salt during the year under report.

Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries.

Burdwan division.

264. In the Burdwan district the coal and iron industries suffered greatly from the general trade depression. The condition of the tile industry at Raniganj was not satisfactory. The rice mills in the district, the paper mill at Rajganj, the soap factory at Bavaha and some other small industries continued to thrive in spite of adverse economic conditions. Two internal combustion engine driven rice mills were started in the Uluberia subdivision of the Howrah district. Two new rice mills have been started in the Birbhum district bringing the total number of such mills in that district to 49.

Presidency division.

265. The Sundarbans match factory at Khulna was closed down. A new match factory was started in the Lalbagh subdivision of the Murshidabad district. In the sadar subdivision of the Jessore district some new rice mills have been started. There have been indications of a revival of the sugar and tanning industries in some parts of the same district.

Dacca division.

266. The handloom weaving industry in the Kishoreganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district is in a decadent condition owing to competition with mill made cloth. The manufacture of sugar has been revived at Rajbari and in the sadar subdivision of the Dacca district.

Chittagong division.

267. There was practically no change in the position of Industries in this division during the year. A small pen nib factory using the hand process was started at Comilla and an ice factory at Chandpur.

268. The condition of industries in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts was far from satisfactory. The blanket and chudder weaving industry in the Darjeeling district was carried on by the Tibet mission and some private persons. The Kalimpong arts and crafts continued to turn out a large quantity of high class goods and set a standard for home industries. The wool trade of the place did not flourish owing to a fall in demand. In the Malda district the silk industy suffered from trade depression, but in Bogra district it was fairly prosperous. The hosiery mills at Pabna suffered badly owing to economic depression. The jute carpet industry at Nilphamari and the duree-making industry at Nisbetganj did well.

Rajshahi division.

The Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

269. During the year 1931 seventy-two factories were added to and 24 factories were removed from the register. The total number of factories increased from 1,555 in 1930 to 1,603 at the close of the year. The world-wide depression in industry seriously affected Bengal. It led to a slackening of the activities of all the principal factories and workshops, and particularly of the jute mills which were compelled to work shorter hours. As a result of this, coupled with a change in a number of jute mills in the system of working from the multiple to the single shift system, the number of operatives in registered factories declined by about 83,438 from 568,877 in the previous year to 480,439. The jute mills were alone responsible for a fall of 58,888 in the number of operatives. There was also a considerable falling off in the employment of women. The number dropped from 52,114 to 42,254, of which the jute mills were responsible for 9,860. The number of employed children also declined by about 55 per cent. from 16,630 in the previous year to 7,281. The reason for this heavy decline was mainly due to the fact that the jute mills employed only 3,462 as against 11,646 in the previous year. The decline in the number of children employed in jute mills was accentuated during the year by bad trade and the change-over to the single shift system of working. For some years half-time labour has been giving ground to full-time or adult labour. This is due to a plentiful supply of adult labour and to the restrictions imposed by the Act on the employment of children. Mill managers now affirm that adult labour is more economical and less troublesome than half-time labour.

Statistics.

270. During the year under review the inspectors visited 2,953 registered and 219 unregistered factories. In the course of these visits 780 factories were inspected once, 264 twice, 131 three times,

Inspection.

occurred in jute mills, two in rice mills, and one each in a cotton mill and a jute press. All these accidents were primarily due to the omission of parents to take proper care of their children while they were at work.

Prosecutions. 277. The number of prosecutions declined considerably from 286 to 114. The falling off in the number of prosecutions was due to the slackness of work in the mills which made it possible for the managers to devote closer attention to compliance with the provisions of the Act and of the rules.

Labour Disputes

278. The number of trade disputes in the year involving stoppages of work was 41, the same number as in the previous year. Twelve of the disputes commenced in the previous year and were in progress at the beginning of the year under report, while one continued into the following year. The number of workmen involved in all the disputes in the year was 65,941 as against 96,078 in the year 1930-31, and the aggregate economic loss in working days was 623,440 as compared with 642,426 in the previous year. Sixteen of the disputes of the year were occasioned by demands for higher wages or by other questions affecting wages and their payment, twelve by questions relating to leave and hours of work, six arose on questions concerning discharge or dismissal and other similar disciplinary action and seven on miscellaneous issues. Of the forty-one disputes in the year nine were settled in favour of the workers either wholly or in part and twenty-six against them, while in five cases work was resumed either as the result of a compromise or pending negotiations and in one the parties had not come to terms when the year closed.

Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

279. During the year seven trade unions were registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, one of the trade unions already registered went into voluntary dissolution and the registration of three of them was cancelled. The total number of registered trade unions on the Bengal register was 28 at the close of the year, as against 25 at the close of the previous year. One of the 28 unions did not submit the annual return prescribed under the Act, and statutory action was being taken with respect to this union. The membership of the remaining 27 unions at the close of the year was 81,725, comprising 81,471 males and 254 females. The balance at the credit of the general funds of 25 of them was Rs. 147,834-12-8, and the remaining two had deficits of Rs. 39-7-4 and Rs. 466-10 respectively.

Steam Boiler Commission, Bengal.

280. During the year under review the Commission held twelve ordinary meetings for the transaction of business. The total number of boilers on the register was 4,541, out of which 207 were struck off the register during the year. The staff inspected 3,374 boilers in respect of which certificates were granted. One hundred and fifty-two boilers were found to be defective during the year under review, in respect of which repairs were recommended to make them serviceable. One boiler was condemned as unfit for further use. The total receipts of the Boiler Commission during the year from all sources amounted to Rs. 2,85,246, out of which Rs. 1,48,564 related to fees received for the inspection of boilers in Bengal. The total expenditure of the Commission during the period amounted to Rs. 2,63,970, out of which Rs. 1,39,314 related to Bengal. The figures representing the total receipts and expenditure during the previous period (January 1930 to March 1931) were Rs. 3,92,298 and Rs. 3,48,339, out of which Rs. 2,11,748 on account of fee receipts and Rs. 1,84,876 on account of expenditure related to Bengal. Five prosecutions were instituted during the year which ended in convictions. During the year under report there were no boiler accident of a serious nature and no fatality or injury to any person due to a boiler accident.

Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.

281. The Commission held thirteen meetings during the year. They continued to maintain touch with smoke departments and fuel and research institutions in Europe and America with a view to keeping abreast of the latest developments in the scientific use of fuel and the scientific abatement of industrial and domestic smoke. The good work carried on by the Commission was continued during the year under review with the co-operation of the interests concerned. A further reduction in the emission of daily black smoke was secured. The average emission of dense black smoke per hour from each factory chimney, which during the previous year was the equivalent of ·18 minutes, was reduced to ·08 minutes during the year under review. This is by far the lowest figure yet recorded. The staff made 15,135 inspections and tests for educational purposes, dealt with 78 complaints, examined and approved 52 plans, brought 4,864 offences to the notice of the owners and served 7 statutory warnings, but no prosecutions were instituted. The public developments which contributed to the reduction of atmospheric pollution included the installation of 819 motors equivalent to 12,120 horse power within the system of the Calcutta

Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, and an increase in the number of gas appliances fitted by the Oriental Gas Company for domestic and industrial use.

Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923).

General.

282. During the year under report there was a slight decrease in the number of claims instituted and a similar decrease in agreements registered under the Workmen's Compensation Act. There was also a fall in the amount of compensation deposited, the total amount being more than 20 per cent. less than the previous year. The fall in the number of cases filed may be ascribed primarily to the general depression in trade, particularly in jute, which in previous years accounted for a considerable number of claims for serious accidents. The number of applications actually filed was far below the number of possible claims because claims from workmen in the coal industry which is responsible for a large number of serious accidents were by no means up to expectation. This is primarily due to the ignorance of coal field workers. The position is, however, expected to improve if the proposed amendments to the Act be passed into law. The difficulty in having the usual notice served on workmen for recording memoranda of agreements continued to be felt though to a slight extent throughout the year. Employers paying compensation, particularly uninsured employers, are not protected until the agreements are registered by the Commissioner and to ensure this, they should take steps either to ensure the registration of agreements by presenting the workmen before the Commissioner or by withholding payment till the registration of the agreements.

Statistics.

283. During the year under report statistical returns were received from 1,481 concerns as against 1,490 in 1930. Defaulters were mostly small concerns such as oil mills, rice mills, iron foundries, etc. The total number of accidents for which compensation was paid as furnished in employers' returns during the year was 2,334 against 3,210 in the previous year. Of these accidents, 78 resulted in death, 283 in permanent disablement and 1,973 in temporary disablement, the corresponding figures for 1930 being 100, 356 and 2,754 respectively. The amounts of compensation paid for the above three classes of accidents were Rs. 47,390 for death, Rs. 63,711 for permanent disablement and Rs. 29,900 for temporary disablement, as against Rs. 61,194, Rs. 85,042 and Rs. 46,835 respectively paid in 1930. There was only one case of lead poisoning resulting in permanent total disablement for which a sum of Rs. 2,310 was paid as compensation. During the year under review 94 applications were filed under section 10, under which an application for compensation is made

when the employer has refused or omitted to pay. Of these, 19 were for compensation for death, 73 for permanent disablement and 2 for temporary disablement. The total number of applications fell from 140 in 1930 to 113 (including 19 pending from previous year) in 1931. Of these 113 applications, 3 were withdrawn, 12 dismissed for non-appearance, 4 summarily dismissed, 27 admitted by the opposite party, 5 allowed in full, 5 allowed in part and 18 dismissed after contest. The total sum received in deposits during the year was Rs. 1,63,866-8 as against Rs. 2,11,499-6-4 in 1930 and Rs. 2,50,655-8 in 1929. Of the total amount deposited during the year Rs. 1,09,515-6-7 was in respect of fatal accidents and Rs. 54,351-1-7 in respect of non-fatal accidents. When deposits are received for insured workmen or for dependants residing in other provinces, the cases are transferred to the local Comissioners concerned. During the year 26 distribution cases and 3 deposits for injured workmen were so transferred and 6 distribution cases were received by transfer to be dealt with here. During the year under report 234 agreements were filed, 214 relating to permanent disablement and 20 in respect of temporary disablement, twenty-three applications were pending at the commencement of the year. Of these 257 agreements all but 15 were disposed of before the close of the year, 230 were registered as they were filed, 4 were registered after modification and 8 were not registered for failure to serve the statutory notice on the workmen. Compensation was awarded by the Commissioner in 142 cases during the year under review. These included awards in applications filed under section 10 and awards in proceedings for distribution of money deposited under section 8 (*1*) among dependants. All these awards were in respect of accidents to adults, 114 of which resulted in death, 27 in permanent disablement and one in temporary disablement.

284. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 29,433 in the Imperial Bank. The total deposits during the year amounted to Rs. 1,63,866-8-2 as against Rs. 2,11,499-6-4 in 1930. Of the disposable total of Rs. 1,93,299-8-2, a sum of Rs. 1,68,105-3-2 was disposed of during the year. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 25,194-5 in the Commissioner's personal ledger account with the Imperial Bank of India. At the beginning of the year under report there were 168 accounts current in the Post Office Savings Bank with a total sum of Rs. 12,140-2. During the year 85 new accounts were opened with Rs. 36,493-5-3 as against 67 accounts opened in 1930 with a total sum of Rs. 20,650-5-10. Of the total number of accounts, viz., 253, seventy-three were closed during the year involving a sum of Rs. 17,715-12-3. At the end of the year 1931, 180 accounts with a balance of Rs. 33,103-4-4 were open. Finance.

Indian Companies Act, 1913, and Allied Acts.

[Annual Report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal, on the working of the Indian Companies Act and certain other allied Acts for 1931-32.]

Statistics.

285. The number of companies in operation limited by shares at the close of the year was 4,328 with a total authorised capital of Rs. 3,91,00,35,972 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,25,69,24,537, compared with 4,143 companies with an authorised capital of Rs. 3,86,30,95,532 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,25,14,78,935 on the 31st March 1931. Two hundred and sixty new companies and societies or 61 less than in the perious year were registered. The heavy decline is attributed solely to the extraordinary economic depression universally prevalent. Of the new companies and societies, 236 were limited by shares, and 6 by guarantee. Eighteen societies, representing social, philanthropic and charitable objects, were incorporated under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, this figure being identical with the number of registrations in the previous year. Five hundred and forty-two companies increased while 24 companies reduced their capital, compared with 468 and 18 respectively in 1930-31. Fifty-one companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct against 55 in the previous year. Forty-eight companies went into liquidation during the year but were not finally wound up. One hundred and fifty-one prosecutions were instituted during the year. Of these 103 ended in conviction and 48 were pending at the close of the year.

The net receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources amounted to Rs. 80,621-9 as compared with Rs. 98,389-14 in the preceding year.

Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (V of 1912).

286. One hundred and three new Provident Insurance societies were registered under the Act during the year, of which 58 are also registered under the Indian Companies Act. One society went into voluntary liquidation, and the total number of societies increased to 184 at the close of the year. During the year four permanent unrestricted auditors' certificates were granted to the holders of the Government Diploma in Accountancy under the provisions of section 144 of the Indian Companies Act and rules relating thereto. Four temporary restricted auditors' certificates which expired during the year were renewed. A holder of a permanent restricted certificate and two holders of permanent unrestricted certificates were reported to have died. The register of

certified auditors showed 44 certificate-holders at the close of the year; of these 31 held permanent unrestricted, one permanent restricted and 12, temporary restricted, auditors' certificates.

Trade.

FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1931-32.]

287. The disastrous effect of the general economic depression on the trade of Bengal noticed last year was further aggravated during 1931-32. The values of both imports and exports of private merchandise were less than those in any year since 1903-04 and every trade of importance shared in the general decline. **Trade position.**

The aggregate value of the sea-borne trade of the province (excluding treasure) with foreign countries and other Indian ports declined from Rs. 1,72·13 crores in 1930-31 to Rs. 1,32·73 crores during the year. The total quantity of merchandise handled at the port of Calcutta also declined under all items except coal, which shows an increase of a little over two lakhs of tons on the export side.

The year's general trade decline is attributable solely to the setback in foreign trade, the aggregate value of which was Rs. 1,00·63 crores (excluding treasure), as against Rs. 1,40·40 crores in 1930-31. Coasting trade shows a slight improvement in value by about Rs. 37 lakhs over the preceding year's total value of Rs. 31·72 crores. The total value of imports of foreign goods receded from Rs. 52·94 crores in 1930-31 to Rs. 35·48 crores and that of exports from Rs. 87·46 crores to Rs. 65·14 crores. The contraction is noticeable under all items of merchandise on the import side and in the principal items on the export side. Tobacco, woollen manufactures, coal, oilcakes, drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics) and leather show slight improvement, but these form only 2·86 per cent. of the total export trade of the province. The United Kingdom's share of exports increased slightly in quantity, but the value was the lowest recorded since 1909-10 and to find a time when the value of her imports was as low as 1931-32, one has to go back 63 years. There appears to have been no appreciable change in the shares of the different countries in the trade of Bengal.

288. The small rise in exchange which took place at the end of March 1931 was not sustained for any length of time owing to the lack of export bills and the abnormal decline in trade. In May affairs abroad took a turn for the worse, confidence became undermined and the rupee gradually fell with the result that the **Exchange.**

Liquor.

290. Imports of liquors of all descriptions fell from 2,047,558 gallons in 1930-31 valued at Rs. 93·25 lakhs to 1,591,815 gallons valued at Rs. 66·71 lakhs. The only noteworthy feature of the decline is that British ales and beers suffered proportionately less than those from other countries.

Sugar.

291. As in the previous year the sugar market suffered from over-production and heavy stocks. Imports fell considerably—refined sugar from 327,000 tons valued at Rs. 3,58 lakhs in the preceding year to 165,000 tons valued at Rs. 1,76 lakhs and unrefined sugar from 3,722 tons worth Rs. 3·1 lakhs to 185 tons valued at Rs. 0·5 lakhs. High rates of duty, increased competition from indigenous sugar and the temporary rise in rupee prices when England went off the gold standard in September 1931, are mainly responsible for this heavy decline. From September 1931 sugar was transferred to the protective part of the tariff schedule and the duty on sugar below 23D.S. raised to the same level as that on white sugar. The result has been an almost complete cessation of imports of brown sugar. The import of molasses declined from 81,000 tons valued at Rs. 31 lakhs to 31,000 tons valued at Rs. 12 lakhs. This is in part attributed to the development in local production.

Salt.

292. The steady increase in the import of salt recorded since 1926-27 received a setback during the year under report. The quantity of salt imported during the year from all sources declined from 602,031 tons valued at Rs. 1,05·33 lakhs in 1930-31 to 472,116 tons valued at Rs. 1,08·66 lakhs. The decline is attributed solely to the setback in imports from all the foreign sources except Aden. The total quantity of foreign salt (other than Aden) imported during the year was 88,004 tons valued at Rs. 13·25 lakhs as against 378,659 tons valued at Rs. 56·82 lakhs in 1930-31. The shrinkage was shared by all suppliers but Egypt and Spain were the worst sufferers. Their supplies dropped from 90,724 tons and 46,385 tons, respectively, to 6,651 tons and 170 tons only. On the other hand imports from Indian sources increased considerably from 48,303 tons valued at Rs. 23·28 lakhs to 97,506 tons valued at Rs. 51·58 lakhs. The supply from Aden rose to 286,606 tons valued at Rs. 43·83 lakhs, as against 175,069 tons valued at Rs. 25·23 lakhs in the preceding year. The decline in the import of foreign salt and the rise in Aden and Indian salt illustrate the results of the differential duty imposed on foreign salt (other than Aden) since April 1931. Another noticeable result of the additional import duty on foreign salt was the concentration of the Aden merchants on the export of crushed salt and the consequent rise in the supply of kurkutch salt from Bombay and of the somewhat similar product from Tuticorin. The proportion of salt

passing through the bonded warehouses at Salkea decreased further. The quantity in bond at the close of the year was 73,725 tons, as against 123,739 tons last year. The actual consumption of Aden and Bombay salt increased from 141,300 tons and 22,725 tons, respectively, to 318,072 tons and 27,060 tons. The consumption of foreign salt dropped—that of the United Kingdom from 41,814 tons to 22,920 tons; Hamburg and Bremen from 46,998 tons to 17,860 tons; Port Said from 77,193 tons to 17,133 tons; Spain from 54,963 tons to 3,600 and Massawah from 52,254 to 1,065 tons.

Tobacco.

293. The import of tobacco increased in quantity from 1,552,674 lb. in 1930-31 to 1,895,772 lb. but the value dropped from Rs. 53·45 lakhs to Rs. 39·20 lakhs. The increase is solely due to larger imports of unmanufactured tobacco which rose to 1,114,252 lb. valued at Rs.10·10 lakhs, as against 251,629 lb. valued at Rs. 2·16 lakhs in 1930-31. Manufactured tobacco of all kinds shows a considerable decline both in value and quantity—cigars decreased from 15,629 lb. valued at Rs. 79 lakhs to 9,493 lb. valued at Rs. 46 lakhs; cigarettes from 1,185,180 lb. valued at Rs. 43·82 lakhs to 686,808 lb. valued at Rs. 22·12 lakhs and other varieties of tobacco including tobacco for pipes from 100,236 lb. valued at Rs. 6·68 lakhs to 85,219 lb. valued at Rs. 6·52 lakhs. The increase in the import of unmanufactured tobacco is due partly to the recent development of local manufacture of cigarettes, but on the whole, the consumption of cigarettes, both imported and Indian made, appears to have decreased.

Mineral oil.

294. Kerosine oil, lubricating and batching oils, petrol, benzine and benzol are the chief articles of import under this head. The import of kerosine oil increased from 76,128,195 gallons valued at Rs. 438·45 lakhs in 1930-31 to 86,306,393 gallons valued at Rs. 5,00·85 lakhs. The increase was shared by the different supplying countries more or less in proportion to their normal share of the trade. The quantities received from the different countries were, Burma 55,735,633 gallons; Azerbaijan 17,440,144 gallons; the United States 10,946,765 gallons; Borneo 2,181,860 gallons and 1,991 gallons from miscellaneous sources. A noticeable feature of the kerosine oil trade is the complete absence of Russia, Persia and Georgia from the field.

Lubricating and batching oils from Burma increased by 177,454 gallons over the previous year's supply of 4,512,923 gallons and those from the United Kingdom rose from 359,538 gallons to 609,560 gallons. But the supply from the United States, Borneo and all other foreign countries decreased heavily. The total import of lubricating and batching oils during the year from all sources declined to 15,251,010 gallons, valued at Rs. 1,04·51 lakhs,

as against 23,180,675 gallons, valued at Rs. 1,43·44 lakhs in the preceding year.

Petrol, benzine and benzol are received from Burma alone. The supply of these articles decreased to less than half the quantity imported during the previous year, viz., from 8,631,315 gallons valued at Rs. 80·81 lakhs to 3,941,876 gallons valued at Rs. 38·03 lakhs.

Motor vehicles.

295. The downward tendency of the motor vehicles trade noticed since 1928-29 continued during the year under report. The number of vehicles imported during the year was, motor cars (including taxi cabs) 1,783; motor cycles (including scooters) 285 and motor omnibuses, vans and lorries 439, as against 3,080,483 and 1,088, respectively, in 1930-31. The total value of motor vehicles of all kinds and parts thereof declined from Rs. 1,14·25 lakhs to Rs. 66·49 lakhs. Tyres and tubes also show similar declines both in value and quantity.

Drugs, medicines and chemicals.

296. The total value of drugs, medicines and chemicals imported during the year was Rs. 1,62;75 lakhs as against Rs. 1,66·78 lakhs in 1930-31. The decline is noticeable under all items except camphor, quinine and sodium compounds which show a slight improvement. The increased import of camphor and quinine is mainly due to the development of the local manufacture of proprietary medicines, while the growing expansion of the soap industry is responsible for larger imports of sodium carbonate and caustic soda. The demand for camphor was met mainly by Switzerland and Japan and that for quinine by Java, Germany and the United Kingdom. Caustic soda came mainly from the United Kingdom whose share was Rs. 8·5 lakhs of the total value of Rs. 10·12 lakhs for this article. An interesting feature of the trade during the year was that the business of Japan in carbide of calcium increased to the detriment of Norway. The share of the latter receded from Rs. 3·67 lakhs to Rs. 1·13 lakhs while Japan's share rose from Rs. 0·35 lakhs to Rs. 2·07 lakhs.

Glassware and earthenware.

297. The imports of glassware and earthenware declined from Rs. 92·16 lakhs in 1929-30 and Rs. 60·08 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 41·12 lakhs during the year under review. The decline is noticeable under all kinds of articles, viz., bangles, beads, false pearls, bottles, phials, funnels, globes and glass parts of lamps, porcelain, etc.

Machinery and millwork.

298. Machinery and millwork imported during the year were valued at Rs. 311 lakhs as against Rs. 5,30 lakhs last year. The more important decreases were jute machinery from Rs. 81 to Rs. 32 lakhs; boilers from Rs. 61 to Rs. 26 lakhs; workshop and

foundry machinery from Rs. 39 to Rs. 20 lakhs and coal mining machinery from Rs. 8 to Rs. 3 lakhs. Sugar machinery alone shows an increased import; the value of sugar machinery rose from Rs. 12:5 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 28 lakhs. The United Kingdom continued to be the largest supplier of machinery; her share of the trade during the year was 73 per cent. as against 78 per cent. last year.

Metals and metal manufactures.

299. The import of iron and steel goods has been declining both in value and quantity since 1928-29. The quantity imported during the year under report was 102,038 tons valued at Rs. 1,76·00 lakhs as against 188,742 tons valued at Rs. 3,40·49 lakhs in the previous year, 379,823 tons valued at Rs. 6,61·58 lakhs in 1929-30 and 492·938 tons valued at Rs. 8,39·70 lakhs in 1928-29. The decline is particularly noticeable under protected goods, which fell from 126,652 tons valued at Rs. 2,06·38 lakhs in the preceding year to 56,888 tons valued at Rs. 91·57 lakhs. Non-protected goods also fell, by about 17,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 49·68 lakhs in value, over the preceding year's figure of 62,090 tons valued at Rs. 1,34·11 lakhs.

The import of metals and ores other than iron steel also declined, the figures for the year being 321,603 cwt. valued at Rs. 98·65 lakhs, as against 387,671 cwt. valued at Rs. 1,69·85 lakhs in the last year and 420,049 cwt. valued at Rs. 2,41·26 lakhs in the year before last.

Paper and pasteboard.

300. Compared with 822,030 cwt. valued at Rs. 121:19 lakhs imported in 1929-30 and 658,526 cwt. valued at Rs. 87·19 lakhs in 1930-31, the import of paper and pasteboard declined during the year under report to 595,780 cwt. valued at Rs. 69·69 lakhs. The loss was shared by paper, both protected and non-protected, and pasteboard almost proportionately to their relative volume in the whole trade. The total quantity of paper imported during the year was—protected 47,008 cwt. valued at Rs. 12:52 lakhs and non-protected, 479·089 cwt. valued at Rs. 50·37 lakhs as against 61,876 cwt. protected valued at Rs. 17·49 lakhs and 514,903 cwt. non-protected valued at Rs. 61·64 lakhs in 1930-31. The quantity of paste-board, etc., imported during the year was 69,683 cwt. valued at Rs. 6·80 lakhs and that of wood pulp 404,996 cwt. valued at Rs. 32·71 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the previous year were, pasteboard, etc., Rs. 81,747 cwt. valued at Rs. 8·06 lakhs and wood pulp 432·597 cwt. valued at Rs. 39·97 lakhs.

Cotton goods.

301. Cotton goods also show a steady decline in value since 1927-28. From Rs. 28,10:81 lakhs that year, Rs. 24,10:20 lakhs in 1928-29, Rs. 23,13:89 lakhs in 1929-30 and Rs. 8,65·08 lakhs last year, the total value of cotton goods imported during the year

under report decreased to Rs. 5,23·32 lakhs. The values of the different kinds of cotton goods were, twist and yarn Rs. 84·66 lakhs, piecegoods Rs. 3,86·70 lakhs and cotton fabrics Rs. 51·96 lakhs as against the previous year's figures of Rs. 92·45 lakhs, Rs. 6,80·12 lakhs and Rs. 92·51 lakhs, respectively.

In quantity the import of twist and yarn rose from 10,562,920 lb. in 1930-31 to 11,127,761 lb. but piecegoods, specially the grey varieties declined heavily. The quantity of piecegoods imported during the year was 129,712,731 yards grey, 41,208,279 yards white and 52,535,164 yards coloured, printed or dyed, as against 229,046,087 yards grey, 49,104,112 yards white and 64,416,708 yards coloured in 1930-31 or a total of 223,456,174 yards against 342,566,907 yards.

The United Kingdom and Japan are the principal suppliers of cotton goods. Twist and yarn from China and coloured piecegoods from Italy also form a considerable portion of the trade. Although the aggregate value of Japan's share of the trade during the year receded from Rs. 2,73·46 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 2,21·70 lakhs in the year under report, her supply of white and coloured piecegoods improved both in value and quantity, from 8,348,544 yards white valued at Rs. 14·25 lakhs and 20,961,169 yards coloured value at Rs. 40·18 lakhs to 18,869,172 yards white and 24,848,709 yards coloured valued at Rs. 28·14 lakhs and Rs. 43·17 lakhs, respectively. The United Kingdom suffered heavily in all varieties of goods except twist and yarn in which her supply increased from 1,820,064 lb. valued at Rs. 20·65 lakhs to 2,629,962 lb. valued at Rs. 24·36 lakhs. The total value of her share in the cotton goods trade was about Rs. 2,42 lakhs less than the preceding year's total value of Rs. 427 lakhs. China and Italy also suffered slight losses.

Silk and artificial silk.

302. The total import of silk and artificial silk goods during the year under review was 13,455,139 yards valued at Rs. 48·09 lakhs, as against 11,374,456 yards valued at Rs. 52·10 lakhs during the preceding year. Pure silk goods receded from 1,830,386 yards valued at Rs. 13·82 lakhs to 1,525,933 yards valued at Rs. 10·77 lakhs and mixed silk goods from 1,222,247 yards valued at Rs. 5·61 lakhs to 1,130,343 yards valued at Rs. 4·42 lakhs, but artificial silk goods improved from 8,321,913 yards worth Rs. 32·67 lakhs in the previous year to 10,798,863 yards valued at Rs. 32·90 lakhs during the year under report. An interesting feature of the year under review is that in the various kinds of silk and artificial silk goods dealt with, every country had to suffer loss, but Japan had the unique fortune of improving her trade in artificial silk from 4,158,843 yards valued at Rs. 15·62 lakhs in the previous year to 9,017,115 yards valued at Rs. 25·51 lakhs last year.

Woollen goods.

303. The aggregate value of woollen goods of all descriptions imported during the year fell from Rs. 50·09 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 30·15 lakhs during the year under report. The fall is noticeable under every single item of import under this head. The falls in individual items were, woollen piecegoods from 1,572,751 yards valued at Rs. 24·13 lakhs to 1,077,185 yards valued at Rs. 13·82 lakhs; woollen shawls from 170,200 pieces valued at Rs. 6·22 lakhs to 90,427 pieces valued at Rs. 2·78 lakhs; braids from 4,475 lb. valued at Rs. 11 lakhs to 2,060 lb. valued at Rs. ·06 lakhs; carpets and rugs from 1,888,436 lb. valued at Rs. 17·65 lakhs to 1,138,734 lb. valued at Rs. 7·91 lakhs; hosiery from 62,221 lb. valued at Rs. 2·51 lakhs to 33,475 lb. valued at Rs. 1·56 lakhs; yarn and knitting wool from 215,237 lb. valued at Rs. 4·73 lakhs to 194,899 lb. valued at Rs. 3·62 lakhs and miscellaneous from 50,284 lb. valued at Rs. 74 lakhs to 27,888 lb. valued at Rs. 40 lakhs.

Other articles.

304. Items below Rs. 10 lakhs in value and not of sufficient importance to merit separate treatment are lumped together under the head, other articles. The year's figures disclose that there has been a general decline under almost all the items. The following, are the most prominent decreases. Grain, pulse and flour declined by Rs. 50·20 lakhs. This was chiefly due to reduced imports of wheat. Hardware fell by Rs. 31·77 lakhs. The decrease occurred under all classes of hardware but the more noticeable reductions were under metal lamps by Rs. 6·50 lakhs, enamelled ironware by Rs. 3·30 lakhs, implements other than agricultural by Rs. 5·60 lakhs and sundries by Rs. 12·40 lakhs. Imports of apparatus, instruments, etc., decreased by Rs. 57·20 lakhs. The fall was almost entirely due to smaller imports of electric instruments and apparatus. Provisions and oilman's stores declined by Rs. 26·50 lakhs, of which Rs. 20 lakhs were due to canned and bottled provisions and Rs. 2·80 lakhs to condensed milk. Imports of spices fell by Rs. 37·45 lakhs, the entire reduction being due to smaller imports of betelnuts. Imports of tea chests declined by Rs. 10·30 lakhs.

The few increases in imports were under raw wool to the value of Rs. 3·90 lakhs, umbrellas and umbrella fittings of Rs. 2·50 lakhs and non-mineral oils Rs. 14·40 lakhs. The increase under the last item was due to increased imports of cocoanut oil.

Import trade of Chittagong.

305. Chittagong is the only other port of Bengal open to foreign trade. The total value of the imports into this port from foreign countries during the year under report amounted to Rs. 82·01 lakhs against Rs. 1,34·79 lakhs in the previous year. The decline is noticeable under every item of merchandise imported

at the port during the year and more particularly under metals (galvanised, corrugated iron sheets), machinery, sugar and salt. Ninety per cent. of Chittagong's trade was with the United Kingdom and the balance with the rest of the British Empire.

Exports.

306. The following table shows the value and relative importance of the export trade of Calcutta:—

	1930-31.	1931-32.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.
	Rs	Rs.	
Jute manufactures	31,84,59,303	21,86,17,820	37·81
Tea	14,64,32,640	10,64,86,193	18·54
Jute, raw	12,46,34,704	10,38,59,230	17·96
Hides and skins, raw	3,32,58,900	2,33,31,113	4·05
Metals and ores	2,71,65,971	2,00,91,725	3·44
Grain, pulse and flour ..	2,36,38,461	1,90,23,720	3·28
Lac	3,10,50,300	1,82,67,866	3·16
Seeds	3,28,12,834	1,08,96,799	1·87
Opium	1,22,04,000	86,92,000	1·50
Coal, coke and patent fuel ..	49,24,583	54,83,891	·95
Oil-cakes	32,38,991	46,76,827	·81
Woollen manufactures ..	37,09,491	40,21,808	·69
Dyeing and tanning substances ..	37,21,518	32,93,738	·57
Paraffin wax	56,67,654	32,74,740	·55
Mica	55,97,896	31,76,731	·54
Bones for manufacturing purposes	..	30,38,056	·53
Cotton, raw	28,30,907	23,17,022	·40
Postal articles	32,40,402	22,09,723	·37
Hemp, raw	29,05,315	19,21,921	·33
Provisions and oilman's stores ..	21,49,530	18,45,672	·31
Manures	63,14,129	17,99,706	·30
Spices	23,32,060	15,08,829	·26
Apparel (excluding hosiery, boots and shoes).	13,48,139	8,80,939	·15
Saltpetre	5,71,475	9,06,462	·15
Drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics).	2,25,225	8,59,735	·15
Tobacco	6,73,224	7,34,581	·13
Leather	5,80,042	7,69,664	·13
Oils	8,52,494	7,08,722	·12
Other articles	67,20,096	54,79,184	·95
Total Indian merchandise ..	80,72,60,284	57,81,74,417	100·00

Grain, pulse and flour.

307. The total export of grains, pulses and wheat flour receded from 154,533 tons valued at Rs. 2,36·38 lakhs in 1930-31 to 150,849 tons valued at Rs. 1,90·2 lakhs. The fall occurred under all items, both in value and quantity, except husked rice which, in quantity only, rose from 118,855 tons to 123,178 tons. But owing to cheaper prices ruling during the year, the value of rice exported declined from Rs. 1,88·38 lakhs to Rs. 1,57·87 lakhs. As in previous years Mauritius purchased the biggest quantity of rice, viz., 25,327 tons

fetching Rs. 34·10 lakhs as against 23,394 tons fetching Rs. 37·65 lakhs in 1930-31. Ceylon, Natal and Arabia were the next highest buyers. The quantities exported to Ceylon and Natal rose from 15,949 tons and 11,416 tons respectively in 1930-31 to 20,414 tons and 13,971 tons but the share of Arabia fell from 12,403 tons to 10,130 tons. Among the countries taking less than ten thousand tons of rice notable increases were, Germany from 4,750 to 8,538 tons and the United Kingdom from 4,643 tons to 7,931 tons. The exports to the West Indies, Bahrein Islands, the East Coast of Africa and Aden decreased on the aggregate by over ten thousand tons.

308. The total quantity of tea exported to the various countries records a steady decrease since 1929-30. As against 247,352,676 lb. valued at Rs. 16,78·75 lakhs exported that year and 228,334,898 lb. valued at Rs. 14,64·33 lakhs in 1930-31 the quantity exported during the year under report was 217,020,620 lb. valued at Rs. 10,64·86 lakhs. Except Canada which purchased 14,090,187 lb. valued at Rs. 66·97 lakhs during the year as against 10,175,704 lb. valued at Rs. 61·87 lakhs in 1930-31, and certain other petty buyers, the purchase of Indian tea declined in all countries. The quantities taken by the principal buyers other than Canada were the United Kingdom 170,176,247 lb. valued at Rs. 8,39·75 lakhs; United States 9,608,653 lb. valued at Rs. 48·10 lakhs and Africa 5,146,884 lb. valued at Rs. 23·61 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 176,680,393 lb. valued at Rs. 11,46·97 lakhs for the United Kingdom; 9,689,141 lb. valued at Rs. 61·57 lakhs for the United States and 6,754,175 lb. valued at Rs. 39·75 lakhs for Africa. The export to all other countries were below fifty lakhs of pounds. Tea.

Owing to difficulty of controlling indigenous producers in Java the scheme adopted by the principal tea producers in India, Ceylon and Java to restrict output was abandoned. As a result output exceeded consumption and the already depressed market sank further. The average price per pound according to shipping bills was 7 5/6 annas during the year, as against 10¼ annas, 10 5/6 annas, 11 2/3 annas and 14 5/12 annas during the four years immediately preceding.

309. Exports of coal to foreign countries rose from 427,911 tons valued at Rs. 48·99 lakhs in 1930-31 to 514,943 tons valued at Rs. 54·47 lakhs, but this figure was still far below the 1929-30 total of 685,063 tons valued at Rs. 71·56 lakhs. It is interesting to note that both Ceylon and the Straits Settlements, the principal buyers of Bengal coal, purchased less than in the preceding year and that the improvement in the volume of this trade was due solely to larger demands from less important markets. Coal.

Lac.

310. Exports of lac (both manufactured and unmanufactured) show a further decline from the preceding year's total figure of 542,819 cwt. valued at Rs. 3,10:50 lakhs to 456,572 cwt. valued at Rs. 182·68 lakhs. The United Kingdom and the United States are the best purchasers of Bengal lac. Next in order are Germany, Japan, France and the Netherlands. The decline in the bulk of the trade is reflected in the share of every country except Japan. Her purchases during the year under report rose from 27,953 cwt. in 1930-31 to 33,978 cwt., but owing to the fall in prices the value declined from Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs. 15·49 lakhs.

Hides and skins.

311. The hide and skin trade of Bengal sank still further below the level it had reached last year which was considered to be the lowest on record. Hides, skins and cuttings exported during the year under report totalled 19,368 tons valued at Rs. 2,40·45 lakhs, as against 23,374 tons valued at Rs. 3,36·17 lakhs in 1930-31. The decline is attributable mainly to the setback in raw hides and cuttings of raw hides and skins. In raw skins also the value decreased, although there was a small increase in quantity. The figures for the various items of export under this head are, raw hides 10,710 tons valued at Rs. 63·77 lakhs; raw skins 8,544 tons valued at Rs. 1,69·48 lakhs; cuttings of hides and skins (raw) 43 tons valued at Rs. ·06 lakhs and dressed hides and skins 71 tons valued at Rs. 7·14 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were, raw hides 15,203 tons valued at Rs. 1,26·11 lakhs; raw skins 7,085 tons valued at Rs. 2,04:85 lakhs; cuttings of hides and skins (raw) 1,042 tons valued at Rs. 1·63 lakhs and dressed hides and skins 44 tons valued at Rs. 3·58 lakhs.

Germany and Italy, the two best buyers of raw hides, took 4,189 tons and 2,036 tons, respectively, as against 5,450 tons and 3,356 tons in the preceding year. The export to Spain alone improved from 453 tons in 1930-31 to 501 tons, but owing to cheaper prices the value paid by her declined from Rs. 4·42 lakhs to Rs. 3·59 lakhs.

The shares of the principal buyers of raw skins during the year were the United States 6,199 tons; the United Kingdom 1,216 tons and France 425 tons, as against 5,769 tons, 232 tons and 264 tons, respectively, during 1930-31.

Metals and ores.

312. The export of metals and ores fell considerably, both in quantity and value. The total quantity exported during the year was 610,870 tons valued at Rs. 200;92 lakhs, as against 743,250 tons valued at Rs. 2,71·66 lakhs during the preceding year.

Shipments of manganese ore and pig iron, the principal metals of export, reached the lowest level since 1927-28. The quantities exported during the year were manganese ore 149,348 tons valued

at Rs. 42·93 lakhs and pig iron 350,858 tons valued at Rs. 1,22·70 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were manganese ore 236,333 tons valued at Rs. 68·72 lakhs and pig iron 439,120 tons valued at Rs. 1,70·39 lakhs. There was no change in the relative volume of trade with the different countries, each maintaining her normal proportion of purchase on a smaller scale.

313. The quantity of mica exported during 1931-32 was 46,108 cwt. valued at Rs. 31·77 lakhs, as against 62,366 cwt. valued at Rs. 55·98 lakhs. Of this quantity block mica formed 5,448 tons valued at Rs. 9·38 lakhs and the rest of the exports were mica splittings. The decline is shared by every country except Japan whose purchase during the year increased from 3,160 tons in 1930-31 to 4,053 tons. The United Kingdom and the United States combined took more than half the total quantity exported, viz., 18,410 tons and 12,678 tons, respectively, but their purchases were the lowest since 1927-28. The exports to Germany, Italy and France varied between four thousand and two thousand tons. Mica.

314. The total value of oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes exported during the year under report was Rs. 1,61·19 lakhs, as against Rs. 3,67·38 lakhs and Rs. 4,72·68 lakhs in the two immediately preceding years. The decline was mainly due to the heavy fall in the export of oilseeds, specially linseed, which receded from 153,898 tons valued at Rs. 3,12·35 lakhs in 1930-31 to 75,580 tons valued at Rs. 85·68 lakhs. The export of tea seed also received a setback but castor seeds and other miscellaneous seeds improved; the figures for some of these are, castor seed 10,391 tons valued at Rs. 13 lakhs against 2,573 tons valued at Rs. 3·95 lakhs in 1930-31; tea seed 609 tons valued at Rs. 7·36 lakhs against 627 tons valued at Rs. 9·78 lakhs; and miscellaneous varieties 848 tons valued at Rs. 1·36 lakhs against 196 tons valued at Rs. 44 lakhs. The export of vegetable oils improved in quantity from 392,162 tons in the preceding year to 437,210 tons in the year under report but the total value declined from Rs. 8·47 lakhs to Rs. 7·02 lakhs owing to the lower rates of prices. Oilseeds and vegetable oils.

The heavy setback suffered by oilcake during the preceding year was considerably compensated for by larger exports during the year; the quantity exported during the year was 67,804 tons valued at Rs. 46·77 lakhs, as against 34,554 tons valued at Rs. 32·39 lakhs in 1930-31.

A remarkable feature of the decline in the linseed trade is that while the demand of this seed was considerably greater from all countries except France owing to lower prices, the value realised during the year was less than in the previous year. The quantities exported to the different countries during the year were, France 12,326 tons, the United Kingdom 12,753 tons, Australia 10,238

tons, Belgium 400 tons, Germany 300 tons and other countries 26,563 tons, while the shipments to these countries during the preceding year were 8,174 tons, 40,916 tons, 10,970 tons, 6,500 tons, 3,900 tons and 83,438 tons, respectively.

Cotton.

315. The total export of raw cotton decreased from 4,588 tons valued at Rs. 28·24 lakhs in the preceding year to 4,004 tons valued at Rs. 22·32 lakhs during the year under report. The United States, Germany, Japan and Belgium reduced their purchases from 1,899 tons, 1,172 tons, 273 tons and 308 tons respectively in 1930-31 to 1,793 tons, 617 tons, 144 tons and 37 tons during the year. Shipments to France increased from 354 tons to 452 tons, to the United Kingdom from 255 tons to 387 tons, to Italy from 123 to 221 tons and to Australia from 87 to 155 tons.

Hemp.

316. The exports of hemp fell from 225,325 cwt. to 169,777 cwt. and the value from Rs. 29·05 lakhs to Rs. 19·22 lakhs. The largest quantity exported to one single country was 15,300 cwt. valued at Rs. 2·32 lakhs to the Philippines.

Jute and jute manufactures.

317. Since 1928-29 when 1,768,272 tons of jute and jute manufactures valued at Rs. 87,58·56 lakhs were exported there has been a steady decline both in quantity and value. The total shipment during the year under report was 1,213,672 tons valued at Rs. 32,24·77 lakhs as against 1,366,007 tons valued at Rs. 44,30·94 lakhs in 1930-31. In quantity the total export of the year was almost equal to that in 1922-23 but the value of the jute exported in that year was nearly double.

The decline in the jute trade of Bengal is mainly attributable to reduced demand for raw jute and gunny bags. Gunny cloth and miscellaneous jute manufactures improved slightly.

Although the area under jute cultivation fell by 47 per cent. and the yield by 51 per cent. during the year under report, the production was still in excess of the demand. The total quantity of raw jute exported during the year fell from 3,361,764 bales valued at Rs. 12,46·35 lakhs in 1930-31 to 3,087,190 bales (or 551,284 tons) valued at Rs. 10,38·59 lakhs. The largest quantity went to the United Kingdom, 742,336 bales as against 537,130 bales in 1930-31. Germany purchased 697,950 bales which is 236,561 bales less than her preceding year's purchase. France, Belgium and the United States, the next best customers of jute, also reduced their demands; the quantities taken by them were 281,747 bales, 253,999 bales and 247,817 bales, respectively, as against 498,120 bales, 267,299 bales and 271,913 bales in 1930-31. The quantity of gunny bags exported during the year under review contracted from 416,026 tons valued at Rs. 14,58·83 lakhs to 376,446 tons valued at Rs. 10,91·13 lakhs. The figures of exports

to the United Kingdom, China and the Straits Settlements disclose improved business in this commodity and those for Australia, Java, Cuba, Chille and Peru record heavy falls. Shipments of gunny cloths also declined from 337,150 tons valued at Rs. 16,85·92 lakhs in 1930-31 to 266,480 tons valued at Rs. 10,41·78 lakhs.

Opium.

318. The export of opium records a steady decline since 1926-27 when the highest quantity of 5,290 chests or 7,760 cwt. valued Rs. 2,11·84 lakhs was shipped. The quantity exported during the year under report dropped to 2,173 chests or 2,715 cwt. valued at Rs. 86·92 lakhs, as against 3,051 chests valued at Rs. 1,22·04 lakhs during the preceding year. The decline in the trade was shared by every importing country. The number of chests imported by Indo-China during the year decreased from 1,321 chests to 1,101 chests. The export to Siam fell from 1,041 chests to 869 chests and to Java from 643 to 203 chests.

Dyeing and tanning substances.

319. The total export of myrobalans, myrobalan extracts, indigo and other sorts of dyeing and tanning substances improved in quantity from 472,384 cwt. to 561,857 cwt. but the total value dropped from Rs. 37·21 lakhs to Rs. 32·94 lakhs. The rise in quantity was due solely to greater demands for myrobalans in the United Kingdom, the United States and France. The total quantity of myrobalans shipped during the year rose from 451,437 cwt. in 1930-31 to 549,915 cwt. but the value realised during the year fell from Rs. 32·60 lakhs to Rs. 29·85 lakhs. Myrobalan extracts record the heaviest decline, from 10,165 cwt. valued at Rs. 1·30 lakhs in the preceding year to 3,781 cwt. valued at Rs. 42 lakhs. Indigo and other tanning and dyeing substances also experienced a setback in export.

Other articles.

320. Of the articles of minor importance shipped during the year the following are the notable increases and decreases. Paraffin wax declined by Rs. 23·92 lakhs; bones (including bonemeal) by Rs. 10·6 lakhs and spices by Rs. 8·23 lakhs. Exports of ghi decreased from Rs. 17·71 lakhs to Rs. 10·46 lakhs and exports by post fell from Rs. 32·40 lakhs to Rs. 22·1 lakhs. Increases in export occurred under saltpetre by Rs. 3·35 lakhs, chemicals by Rs. 2·16 lakhs, drugs and medicines by Rs. 6·35 lakhs, leather by Rs. 1·9 lakhs and unmanufactured tobacco by Rs. 0·92 lakhs. Exports of raw wool rose by Rs. 1·72 lakhs to Rs. 2·94 lakhs and woollen manufactures (chiefly carpets) increased from Rs. 37·09 lakhs to Rs. 40·22 lakhs.

Foreign exports from Chittagong.

321. The foreign export trade of Chittagong partly recovered from the setback it sustained in 1930-31; the total value of the trade rose from Rs. 5,59·93 lakhs that year to Rs. 6,21·93 lakhs in the year under report. Tea, raw jute and rice were the principal articles exported from Chittagong.

Distribution of the foreign trade of Calcutta.

322. The following table shows the distribution of the trade of Calcutta with the principal trading countries:—

	Imports.				Exports.			
	1930-31.		1931-32.		1930-31.		1931-32	
	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage of total imports.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage of total imports.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage of total exports.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage of total exports.
United Kingdom ..	21,16·72	42·45	12,85·86	38·00	19,02·30	23·44	15,66·03	26·84
British Possessions ..	4,20·58	8·44	3,45·14	10·20	13,15·24	16·21	10,41·09	17·85
Germany	3,26·23	6·54	2,29·31	6·78	5,08·02	6·26	3,22·34	5·52
France	54·30	1·09	35·95	1·06	2,60·30	3·21	1,63·96	2·81
Belgium	91·52	1·84	54·82	1·62	2,26·63	2·79	1,64·79	2·83
Italy	1,10·25	2·21	80·98	2·39	1,41·93	1·75	1,09·91	1·88
Java	4,05·39	8·13	1,86·46	5·51	1,96·55	2·42	1,14·29	1·96
Japan	5,26·70	10·56	4,12·94	12·20	1,68·43	2·07	1,86·57	3·20
United States	4,61·52	9·26	3,44·06	10·17	16,52·39	20·36	10,93·16	18·74
South America	1·71	·03	·03	·00	4,87·12	6·00	2,23·10	3·82
Other countries	4,81·25	9·45	4,08·55	12·07	12,55·99	15·49	8,48·83	14·55
Total ..	49,96·17	1,00·00	33,84·10	1,00·00	81,14·90	1,00·00	58,34·07	100·00

In comparison with last year the import trade of Calcutta decreased in value by about 32 per cent. and the export trade by 28 per cent.

323. The heavy fall in the imports from the United Kingdom is mainly due to piecegoods, machinery and millwork, instruments and apparatus, iron and steel and railway materials. Slight increases in th exports of jute, both raw and manufactured, skins and oilcake were counterbalanced by heavy falls in the shipments of tea, lac, pig iron and mica. British Empire.

Australia took fewer gunny bags and less tea and linseed. Imports of betelnuts and tin from the Straits and motor cars from Canada fell off considerably. Increased imports of cocoanut oil from Ceylon accounts for the rise in her share of the trade.

324. Both imports and exports recorded heavy decreases. On the import side reduced receipts of metals from Germany, Belgium and France, paper and papermaking material from Norway and Sweden, vegetable products from the Netherlands and woollen manufactures from Italy account for the decline. Noticeable decreases also occurred in the imports of hardware, salt and dyes from Germany. Smaller shipments of raw jute to Germany France, Belgium and the Netherlands, of jute manufactures to Belgium and raw hides to Germany, Italy and the Netherlands are mainly responsible for the decline under exports. Europe.

325. The drop in imports from Japan was due to smaller receipts of cotton piecegoods, boots, shoes, wood and timber. The heavy fall in imports of sugar from and exports of gunny bags to Java explains the drop in her share of the trade. Asia.

326. Noticeable decreases occurred under imports of metals, oils, motor cars, instruments and hardware from the United States of America. Exports of jute manufactures, hides and skins, lac, mica and pig iron to the United States also declined considerably. America.

COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1931-32.]

327. The trade of Calcutta with other Indian ports, British as well as non-British, improved in value from Rs. 26,58·85 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 27,95·77 lakhs during the year under report. The improvement was due mainly to larger imports of paddy and rice from Burma and of grey piecegoods from Bombay. General position.

328. The total value of the coastal import trade during the year was Rs. 17,08·95 lakhs as against Rs. 15,40·02 lakhs in 1930-31. Of this total value Burma had the largest share of Rs. 8,07·99 lakhs as against Rs. 7,19·33 lakhs in 1930-31. Next came Bombay and Madras, whose shares were Rs. 4,68·95 lakhs Imports.

and Rs. 2,67·06 lakhs respectively, as against Rs. 3,64·57 lakhs and Rs. 3,41·49 lakhs in 1930-31. The fall in imports from Madras is accounted for by reduced receipts of cocoanut oil, ground nuts and raw cotton. Shipments of wheat and wheat flour from Karachi rose considerably and mainly account for the improvement in the total value of imports from Sind which rose from Rs. 26·57 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 99·36 lakhs during the year. The figures of imports from Bihar and Orissa and also from the non-British Indian ports disclose a considerable falling off in trade. The exports of the former declined from Rs. 5·39 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 4·05 lakhs and those of the latter from Rs. 70·54 lakhs to Rs. 49·44 lakhs.

Exports.

329. The export trade of Calcutta with other parts of India also declined during the year from Rs. 11,18·83 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 10,86·82 lakhs. The heavy fall in Burma's share of the trade from Rs. 6,76·82 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 5,67·49 lakhs and a fall of Rs. 2·68 lakhs in the share of Chittagong during the year more than counterbalanced the improvement of about Rs. 80 lakhs made in other directions and occasioned a net loss of a little over thirty-two lakhs of rupees. Due mainly to larger shipments of tea, coal, cloth and gunny bags, the share of Bombay improved in value from Rs. 1,66·47 lakhs to Rs. 2,27·80 lakhs. Madras improved her receipts of paper, rice, matches, cow hides and raw jute but she reduced her import of gram and pulses. The aggregate value of her trade with Calcutta was Rs. 1,94·38 lakhs, as against Rs. 1,88·23 lakhs in 1930-31.

Calcutta Port Trust.

Port and port approaches.

330. The eastern Middleton bar was the governing bar for 320 days against 327 days in 1930-31. The depth below datum varied between 14 feet 3 inches and 13 feet 3 inches, the latter depth occurring at the end of January 1932. The eastern Gut bar showed an average available depth for the year of 17 feet 6 inches which is 2·75 inches better than during the previous year and 3 feet 1·25 inches better than the average prior to 1907, when the dredging of the river originally began. The maximum depth available was the same as that of the previous year while the minimum was 2 feet 6 inches better. It governed navigation on 19 days of the year. Except for 8 days in December 1931, 27 days in January and 11 days in February 1932, a bar existed at Royapur crossing. It was the governing bar for 23 days during the year. The lighting scheme for night navigation of the river from Garden Reach to Ulubaria was completed and brought into use.

Trade.

331. During the year 1,263 vessels entered the port with a net tonnage of 4,179,742 tons against 1,318 vessels with a net tonnage

of 4,381,953 tons in the previous year. The total tonnage of goods handled at the jetties, docks, etc., was 7,928,224 tons against 8,728,264 tons in the preceding year.

332. The income for the year amounted to Rs. 267 lakhs and the expenditure to Rs. 3,13·44 lakhs. The traffic tonnages of the port declined further during the year under review resulting in a decrease of the income. The year closed with a deficit of Rs. 46·42 lakhs on revenue account which was met by an appropriation of Rs. 47·5 lakhs from the revenue reserve and fire insurance fund leaving, after adjustment of accrued interest and sinking fund charges, a closing balance at the credit of revenue account of Rs. 43,124. The general financial position of the Port Commisisoners was examined in August 1931 and an economy committee was formed to advise the Commissioners in matters of retrenchment affecting establishment and other items of expenditure. Revenue.

333. The year opened with a credit balance on capital account of Rs. 9·03 lakhs. During the year short term loans amounting to Rs. 93·5 lakhs were taken from the Imperial Bank of India and Calcutta Banks under the authority of the Local Authorities Loans Act. These loans were repaid in full in April 1932. A loan of Rs. 80 lakhs at 6½ per cent. repayable at par in 60 years, was raised under the authority of the Local Authorities Loans Act and taken up in full by the Commissioners' revenue reserve and fire insurance funds. Capital.

334. The year opened with a debit balance on revenue account of Rs. 2,21,647. The income amounted to Rs. 3,11,203 and the expenditure to Rs. 3,44,040. The year, therefore, closed with a debit balance of Rs. 2,54,484, which was transferred to general reserve. The total indebtedness of the bridge to the Port Commissioners was reduced to Rs. 300-11-6. The bridge was opened on 280 occasions and 4,271 vessels passed through it during the year. Howrah Bridge.

Inland Steam Vessels Act, I of 1917.

335. The total number of vessels surveyed was 333 steam vessels and 72 motor vessels at Calcutta and 258 steam vessels and 87 motor vessels at Chittagong. The survey fees realised amounted to Rs. 34,885-13 and Rs. 21,207-4, at Calcutta and Chittagong, respectively. Surveys.

Three hundred and sixteen candidates were examined at Calcutta for certificates of competency, as engineers, engine drivers, etc., of whom 91 passed. At Chittagong 16 passed out of 51 candidates examined. Out of 371 candidates examined at Calcutta for certificates of competency as masters and serangs, only 51 passed. Examinations.

CHAPTER IX.—PUBLIC WORKS AND IRRIGATION.

Public Works.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.

Establishment.

336. Mr. Hari Das Das, B.E., Executive Engineer of the Bengal Senior Service of Engineers, having retired, Mr. A. L. P. White, Assistant Engineer, was promoted provisionally to the Bengal Senior Service of Engineers as Executive Engineer. The original contract of Mr. J. D. A. Vincent, Executive Engineer of the old Electrical Division, having expired, he was appointed as permanent Superintending Engineer of the Electrical Circle. Mr. A. H. Nunn and Mr. W. C. Donnellan, who were recruited in England on contract with the ultimate object of absorbing them in the cadre of Assistant Executive Engineers of the Bengal Senior Service of Engineers, were appointed to the Bengal Senior Service of Engineers during the year. The question of filling up some of the vacancies in the Bengal Engineering Service was under the consideration of Government. During the year some of the Public Works Department subdivisions and sections were abolished as a measure of retrenchment and the question of the abolition of the Duars Road Division and of the 3rd Calcutta Division, was under the consideration of Government.

Revenue and expenditure.

337. The revenue realised during the year amounted to Rs. 20·21 lakhs of which Rs. 17·35 lakhs were provincial. The expenditure including that on communication (Rs. 40·37 lakhs) totalled Rs. 108·35 lakhs including about Rs. 20·38 lakhs for establishment, tools and plant. Of this total Rs. 6;42 lakhs were for central works, Rs. 11·23 lakhs for provincial works (reserved) and Rs. 56·12 lakhs for provincial works (transferred). Rupees 1·69 lakhs were expended on contribution works and Rs. 3·97 lakhs on grants-in-aid and Rs. 8·54 lakhs on "60—Civil works not charged to revenue."

Central works.

338. The following works were completed:—

A combined post and telegraph office with sub-postmaster's quarters at Jhargram, an extension of the cemetery at Kurseong, quarters for wireless operators and menials at Tollygunge in connection with the Direction Finding Station, a second set of operators' quarters at the Wireless Direction Finding Station at Tollygunge, staff sergeant inspectors' quarters for the 12th Dacca

University Corps, a wireless station at Chittagong, renewal of wiring in the Stamp and Stationery office, Calcutta, and special repairs to the Satgumbuj mosque at Bagerhat.

The following works were started and are in progress:—

Additions and alterations to the post office and postmaster's quarters at Burdwan, combined post and telegraph office and sub-postmaster's quarters with subsidiary buildings at Gopalganj.

Provincial buildings.

339. Rupees 30·39 lakhs were spent under the transferred head and Rs. 4·92 lakhs under the reserved head. Education buildings accounted for Rs. 5·07 lakhs, buildings in connection with General Administration Rs. 6·46 lakhs, and buildings relating to the Administration of Justice, Police, Medical, Jails and other civil works Rs. 23·78 lakhs.

Of the several works completed, the more important ones were the following:—

A police section house at Burrabazar, traffic police barrack and flat at Porabazar, additions and alterations in the existing building of the cantonment at Dum-Dum for the accommodation of the detachment of the Eastern Frontier Rifles stationed there, a Moslem institute in the compound of the Madrassa College, Calcutta, the purchase of the Lady Canning Home in the compound of the Presidency General Hospital for the accommodation of the nurses, temporary buildings for the accommodation of Frontier Force Rifles and 1/8th Gurkhas at Chittagong, temporary military barracks at Pahartali, quarters for the 2nd and 3rd officers at Gopalganj, a cook-shed for the Hindu and Muhammadan convicts in the central jail at Dacca, additions and alterations in the sub-jail at Satkhira, additions and alterations in the sub-jail at Jhenida, extension of the record room attached to the sadar registration office at Midnapore, quarters for the sub-registrar at Arambagh, a settlement office at Chinsura, additional works in the additional special jail at Hijli, converting the special jail at Hijli into a detention camp for housing detenus, additions and alterations in the defunct Mental Hospital at Berhampore for housing detenus, an anatomical museum and lecture theatre attached to the Medical School at Burdwan, additional buildings for the Serampore Weaving Institute, combined armoury and clothing godown in the reserve police lines at Asansol, tahsildars' quarters at Mainaguri, settlement peons' quarters and a press shed in connection with the settlement operations at Rangpur, a new record room for the settlement records at Rangpur, additions and alterations to the registration office at Rangpur, additions and alterations to the new police lines at Bogra, a combined office and

quarters for the Public Works Department subdivisional officer at Bogra, an extension of the Victoria Hospital including the construction of nurses' quarters at Darjeeling, additions and alterations to the Buxa cantonment for accommodating detenus, an electrical installation at the Burrabazar police section house and an electric installation at the traffic police flats and barracks at Porabazar.

The following were the more important works in course of construction at the end of the year:—

Additional barracks for warders of the additional special jail at Hijli, conversion of the district jail at Berhampore into a female jail, conversion of the special jail at Hijli into a house of detention, a new residence for the Superintendent of Police at Mymensingh, six additional sets of quarters for the accommodation of the staff of the Agricultural Department attached to the Dacca farm at Manipur, and an electrical installation in the Moslem Institute, Calcutta.

The Consulting Architect to the Government of Bengal.

340. In fifteen projects the Consulting Architect prepared drawings and, where possible, regularly inspected the buildings while under construction. A considerable amount of his time has also been devoted to scrutinising plans and to giving advice in connection with proposed buildings work for which no drawings were prepared.

Communications.

341. The total expenditure on communications during the year was Rs. 35,60,278 of which Rs. 1,95,127 was spent by the Government of India on Central Communications.

The following works were completed during the year:—

(1) Reconstruction of a portion of the Grand Trunk Road from the south approach of the Chandmari bridge to the junction of the Telkalghat Road.

(2) Reconstruction of a portion of the Grand Trunk Road from the tramway terminus to the Shalimar Road junction.

(3) Reconstruction of a portion of the Grand Trunk Road from the foot of the north approach of the Chandmari Bridge to Golabari Road junction.

(4) Reconstruction of a portion of the Grand Trunk Road from 120th to 124th mile.

(5) Construction of a weighbridge at Sukna in the Darjeeling district.

(6) Widening the metalled surface of a portion of the Sukna-para Thaljhora Road.

(7) Construction of an engine shed in the compound of the Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow at Hilli.

(8) Installation of electric lights on the roadways and footpaths over the Willingdon Bridge and on the approach roads thereto.

In addition the following works were in progress:—

(1) Reconstruction of the Calcutta-Jessore Road from Calcutta to Baraset.

(2) Reconstruction of the Diamond Harbour Road from the 4th to the 29th mile.

(3) Construction of an approach road to the Willingdon Bridge at Bally from Barrackpore Trunk Road to Hastie Road.

(4) Widening the metalled width of the Grand Trunk Road from 138th to 149th mile at Barakar.

(5) Reconstruction of the Grand Trunk Road from Bally Khal Bridge to the boundary of French Chandernagore.

(6) Diversion of the Grand Trunk Road between 56th mile 3rd quarter to 57th mile 3rd quarter near Memari Bazar.

(7) Construction of a reinforced concrete bridge over the Teesta River at Teesta Bazar in the district of Darjeeling.

(8) Metalling a portion of the Chittagong Trunk Road from Mainamati to Barkanta Inspection Bungalow and widening the existing metalled road from Comilla to Mainamati.

The special repairs and maintenance of the roads in the Darjeeing division for the year under review were practically completed. Special repairs to some of the roads and bridges in the Duars were also carried out. Arboricultural operations on some of the roads in the Duars road division were also carried out.

342. The work of preparing the landing ground at Chittagong was completed. The work of making an aeroplane landing ground in the race course maidan at Berhampore was started and completed during the year under report. **Civil aviation.**

343. The rest house at Pedong in the district of Darjeeling as well as the camping grounds at Siliguri, Kurseong, Sonada, Teesta Bazar, Dinajpur and Malda were maintained by this department. The Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles buildings at Kurseong, Jalpaiguri, Nagrakatta, Mal and Kalchini were looked after by this department. The work of constructing one Staff Sergeant Instructor's quarters for the 12th Dacca University Corps was completed. **Military.**

Contribution work.

344. The rectification of the road surface on the Grand Trunk Road, Howrah, opened by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, for laying underground high tension cable was completed.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

345. The following light railways are under the control of this Government in so far as provision for their construction and management was made by Provincial legislation:—

	Gauge.		Length in miles.
	Ft.	In.	
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway ..	2	0	51·07
(2) Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarkeswar to Tribeni) ..	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway ..	2	0	43·87
(4) Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway	2	0	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway	2	6	52·24
Total	..		200·20

All other railways in this Province are under the direct control of the Government of India.

Surveys and construction.

346. During the year no surveys were sanctioned by the Government of India in the Railway Department. Owing to financial stringency no new construction was attempted. The question of the waterways and the headways of bridges to be provided in the proposed Dacca-Aricha Railway is under the consideration of this Government.

Lines opened.

347. The following lines were opened to traffic during the year under report:—

(*a*) The Kalukhali-Bhateapara Railway (53·28 miles). It is designed to serve the Faridpur district in lieu of the rapidly deteriorating rivers Chandana and Baraseea.

(*b*) The Chittagong-Dohazari section of the Assam-Bengal Railway (25·05 miles). It establishes railway connection between Chittagong and a large area of very densely populated country on the left bank of the Karnafuli river. It represents the first section (and at present the only section sanctioned) of the Railway that will ultimately connect Chittagong with Akyab.

348. With these additions the total mileage of railways on 31st March 1932 was 3,489·96 miles. The construction of the Calcutta Chord Railway line including the Willingdon Bridge at Bally has been completed but the line has not yet been opened to traffic. **Mileage.**

Irrigation Department.

General.

349. The total capital expenditure of the department in the year 1931-32 was Rs. 19,64,660 after deducting recoveries amounting to Rs. 1,22,410 on capital account. **Capital expenditure.**

350. The only important new projects under construction during the year were (1) the Damodar irrigation canal which has been designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly, (2) the Bakreswar irrigation project in the district of Birbhum designed to irrigate about 10,000 acres of paddy land in a tract subject to frequent scarcity, and (3) the construction of locks and sluices on the lower Kumar river which provides a short route from Calcutta to east Bengal. The construction of the Damodar canal was in progress during the year. The canal is now approaching completion and the revenue account will be opened during 1933-34. The work on the Bakreswar canal was completed with the exception of the construction of reaches No. 2 and No. 5 with bridges and regulators which was taken up during the year. The canal was partly opened during the year and irrigated 4,033 acres. The locks and sluices constructed on the lower Kumar river were in operation during the year with the exception of the Mustafapur sluice which, though completed, could not be operated owing to damage to the structure by scour. **New projects.**

351. Financial stringency and consequent lack of funds have rendered it impossible for the department to carry out any of the other major schemes which are ready for execution or even to investigate, excepting in a few cases, the numerous problems which await solution. A list of the important works administratively approved and awaiting funds for execution was given in the report of the previous year. **Important works administratively approved.**

352. The expenditure on revenue account during the year amounted to Rs. 23,97,941 of which Rs. 2,49,278 were spent on irrigation works proper, the principal items being the Midnapore and the Eden canals. The expenditure on the Midnapore canal was Rs. 1,87,615 which included Rs. 54,913 for maintenance and repairs and Rs. 1,29,311 for the overhead charges of the canal. The rest of the expenditure was on navigation, embankment and drainage works. The expenditure on navigation was mainly for the maintenance of the steamer and **Revenue expenditure.**

boat routes from Calcutta to east Bengal and Assam including the reconstruction of the bridges over the Calcutta canals and Tolly's nala, to the cost of which the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Calcutta Corporation contribute in certain cases where improved bridges are required. The expenditure on the Calcutta and Eastern canals was Rs. 4,56,972 including Rs. 1,26,596 on account of Government share of the cost of the reconstruction of the bridges over the Calcutta canals. The expenditure on the Hijili tidal canal, the Sundarbans steamer route and the Madaripur bil route was Rs. 34,709, Rs. 1,80,610 and Rs. 2,55,808 respectively. The working expenses of these navigation works were lower than usual but the revenue derived except from the Hijili tidal canal further declined in the year under review. The decrease in the revenue receipts was due mainly to general trade depression.

Embankments.

353. This department is in charge of about 1,245 miles of embankments involving recurring charges for maintenance. As there was no flood of considerable magnitude during the year in the areas where embankments exist entailing heavy repairs, the expenditure on these embankments was normal. There were no additions to the length of public embankments and the policy of gradually abandoning protective embankments where circumstances render it feasible was continued and a length of about 10 miles was abandoned during the year. The amount spent on the maintenance of drainage works, such as the Magrahat drainage project came to about Rs. 73,181.

Erosion at Serajganj.

354. This department has also to deal with the protection of towns from river erosion. The revetment which was constructed for protection of Serajganj was damaged by the great floods of the Jamuna in 1931 and the work of repairing it was taken up during the year. This revetment has checked the further progress of erosion and the main attack of the river is likely to shift from the vicinity of the town.

Dredger "Ronaldshay."

355. The dredger "Ronaldshay" was engaged in reclamation work for the Government of India in the Andamans up to the middle of November 1931. The capital and revenue accounts include receipts on account of hire paid by the Government of India during the year.

Important works under execution or in charge of this department.

356. The following is a list of important works under execution or in charge of this department:—

(1) Construction of the Damodar canal.

(2) Construction of the Bakreswar canal.

(3) Construction of locks and sluices in the lower Kumar river and the Madaripur bil route.

(4) Maintaining the Midnapore canal.

(5) Maintaining the Hijili tidal canal.

(6) Maintaining the Calcutta and Eastern canals system including Tolly's nala and Kaorapukur khal.

(7) Maintaining the Sundarbans steamer route.

(8) Maintaining the Madaripur bil route and the lower Kumar river.

(9) Maintaining the Eden canal.

(10) Maintaining the Amjore weir.

(11) Maintaining the Salbund weir.

(12) Maintaining the Orissa coast canal lying within the Province of Bengal.

(13) Maintaining the Nadia rivers.

(14) Maintaining the Magrahat drainage works.

(15) Construction of the Dhutkhali sluice.

(16) Maintaining the Jaboona drainage project.

(17) Maintaining the Amta drainage project.

(18) Maintaining the Nowee Sunthi drainage project.

(19) Maintaining the Arool bil drainage project.

(20) Remodelling the Hoorhoora and Buxi khals.

(21) Maintaining the Rajapur and Burrojola drainage works.

(22) Maintaining Dankuni drainage works.

(23) Maintaining Bullee bil drainage works.

(24) Maintaining Argowal drainage works.

(25) Bandalling the Bhagirathi river.

(26) Dredging shoals in the lower Kumar, Madhumati and Attrabanka rivers.

(27) Constructing and maintaining the brick-mattress at Serajganj.

(28) Improving the Lohajang river.

(29) Maintaining the Sarda revetment.

(30) Maintaining 1,245 miles of embankments in the districts of 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Burdwan, Hooghly and Tippera.

(31) Conservancy of the Ganges from Rajmahal to Goalundo.

(32) Training the Mahananda river.

(33) Bandalling the Dhalleswari and Buriganga rivers.

The last three works are carried on by the Joint Steamer Companies on behalf of this department.

Revenue receipts.

357. While the receipts from works decreased by Rs. 82,333 owing to the economic depression and the low price of paddy the reduction in working expenses amounted to Rs. 4,37,823 owing partly to the 10 per cent. reduction in salaries.

CANALS (IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION.)

Capital and revenue accounts.

358. The transactions of the department for the year are shown in the following statement, in so far as they relate to irrigation and navigation works:—

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1931-32.	Expenditure to end of 1931-32.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1932.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.				
A.—Irrigation Works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	80,51,475	20,19,627	86,69,338	−6,17,863
Indirect	2,54,102	24,227	1,18,057	1,36,045
Total ..	83,05,577	20,43,854	87,87,395	−4,81,818
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	83,06,728	..	83,06,728	..
Indirect	1,85,325	..	1,85,325	..
Total ..	84,92,053	..	84,92,053	..
B.—Navigation Works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	2,49,49,000	5,580	13,98,529	2,35,50,471
Indirect	5,26,000	36	46,319	4,79,681
Total ..	2,54,75,000	5,616	14,44,848	2,40,30,152
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	3,22,32,800	−84,939	3,14,39,500	7,93,300
Indirect	3,51,342	129	5,71,276	−2,19,934
Total ..	3,25,84,142	−84,810	3,20,10,776	5,73,366

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
XIII—Works for which both capital and revenue accounts are kept.					
A.—Irrigation Works.					
Productive	8,258	1,258	6	1,264	6,994
Unproductive ..	1,63,433	1,87,038	577	1,87,615	−24,182
B.—Navigation works.					
Unproductive ..	8,17,532	10,70,681	6,145	10,76,826	−2,59,294
Total ..	9,89,223	12,58,977	6,728	12,65,705	−2,76,482

Receipts and expenditure on works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.

Receipts.

XIV.—Works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.

	Rs.
A—Irrigation works	40,349
B—Navigation, embankment and drainage works	1,75,546
Total ..	2,15,895

Expenditure.

15.—Works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.

	Rs.
A—Irrigation works	60,399
B—Navigation, embankment and drainage works	10,71,837
Total ..	11,32,236

Total receipts of the department during 1931-32—	
Irrigation works	2,12,040
Navigation, embankment and drainage works	9,93,078
Total ..	12,05,118
Total expenditure of the department including capital outlay of Rs. 19,64,660 (*a*) during 1931-32—	
Irrigation works	22,93,132
Navigation, embankment and drainage works	20,69,469
Total ..	43,62,601 (*b*)

	Rs.
(*a*) Irrigation works	20,43,854
Navigation	− 79,194
	19,64,660

(*b*) Includes Rs. 13,28,689 for establishment charges.

Statement of areas irrigated.

359. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1931:—

	Midnapore canal.			Eden canal.			Bakreswar canal.		
	Kharif including hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif including hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif including hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of triennium ending March 1931 ..	58,660	8	58,666	21,063	422	21,488	..	..	..
For 1931-32 ..	38,967	..	38,967	17,931	289	18,220	3,865	168	4,033

Statement of lengths of canals.

360. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year under review:—

	Midnapore canal.		Eden canal.		Bakreswar canal	
	Miles.	Ft.	Miles.	Ft.	Miles.	Ft.
Main canal (irrigation)	48	3,960	27·5	..	11·	2,680
Branch canals	16	2,960	..	..	..	..
Distributaries	254·54	..	17·6	..	7·	250
Village channels	30·43	..	..	..	..	..
Navigable channels	65	1,640	..	..	..	..

Statement of traffic.

361. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during 1931-32 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1931:—

	Midnapore canal.		Hijili Tidal canal.		Calcutta and Eastern canals.	
	Average of triennium ending March 1931.	For the year 1931-32.	Average of triennium ending March 1931.	For the year 1931-32.	Average of triennium ending March 1931,	For the year 1931-32.
Length of open canals in miles	69¾	65½	49⅞	49¾	834	834
Receipts .. Rs.	36,061	21,850	60,955	68,853	4,17,589	3,09,781
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement in tons ..	172,977	138,399	148,964	179,865	941,869	834,506
Estimated weight of cargo in tons	26,195	19,424	39,619	49,435	690,808	649,438
Estimated value of goods Rs.	36,81,627	24,14,618	53,60,661	33,25,260	5,33,96,734	4,36,64,520
Estimated value of rafts Rs.	12,124	4,930	892	470	34,26,484	11,77,310

	Sundarbans Steamer route.		Madaripur Bil route.		Orissa coast canal.	
	Average of triennium ending March 1931.	For the year 1931-32.	Average of triennium ending March 1931.	For the year 1931-32.	Average of triennium ending March 1931.	For the year 1931-32.
Length of open canals in miles ..	350	350	38	38	54½	54½
Receipts .. Rs.	72,474	62,446	3,13,756	2,31,448	26,730	25,882
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement in tons ..	..	..	835,462	864,506	83,064	103,202
Estimated weight of cargo in tons ..	..	..	1,128,339	802,645	30,847	29,588
Estimated value of goods Rs.	..	..	14,98,05,148	10,64,92,687	37,85,555	22,85,246
Estimated value of rafts .. Rs.	..	..	17,074	12,858	3,397	1,875

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

362. The expenditure on embankments and drainage works including charges for establishment, tools and plant was Rs. 7,98,544 against Rs. 8,14,721 in the previous year. Expenditure.

363. There were no additions to the length of public embankments maintained by this department but the policy of gradually abandoning those protective embankments which by experience have been found to be injurious to the country by obstructing the free discharge of flood water was continued, and a length of 10 miles and 134 feet of embankments was thus abandoned during the year under review. The total length of embankments of all classes now maintained by this department is 1,245 miles and 1,159 feet. Embankments

Summary of the year's transactions.

364. The transactions of the year under review are briefly described in the following summary which is divided for convenience into two circles of superintendence.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

365. This scheme was taken up under the Irrigation Act in the year 1927 and was in progress during the year under review. The head works, main canal, and distributaries Nos. I, III, IV, VI and VIA were completed and were in operation during the year, being opened in July 1931. The total capital outlay to end Bakreswar canal (productive).

of March 1932 amounted to Rs. 6,71,307. The gross revenue and working expenses were respectively Rs. 8,258 and Rs. 1,264, the net revenue being Rs. 6,994. The total area irrigated during the year was 4,033 acres.

Midnapore canal (unproductive). 366. No capital expenditure was incurred on the canal during the year under review. The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year was Rs. 83,06,728.

Rainfall. 367. The rainfall at Midnapore was 50·49 inches as compared with 69·45 inches of the previous year.

Irrigation. 368. The total area irrigated during the year was 38,967 acres of which 38,091 acres were irrigated by the Midnapore weir, and 876 acres by the Panskura weir. The cash realisation on account of water rates was Rs. 1,11,541, of which Rs. 914 were remitted against Rs. 1,58,841 realised and Rs. 2,815 remitted during the preceding year. The total demand for water rates including arrears was Rs. 1,27,513 against Rs. 1,72,726 in the previous year. The decrease in demand is due to the fact that many of the lapsed leases were not renewed during the year owing to the heavy fall in the price of paddy and also to well distributed rainfall during the year.

Navigation receipts. 369. The navigation receipts from the Midnapore canal amounted to Rs. 21,986 against Rs. 29,020 in the previous year.

Financial results. 370. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 1,63,433 and Rs. 1,87,615 respectively against Rs. 2,17,341 and Rs. 2,14,682 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 24,182 against Rs. 2,659 in the previous year.

Minor Irrigation Works.

Eden canal. 371. The total area irrigated from the canal during the year was 18,220 acres against 20,992 in the previous year. The cash realisation on account of water rates amounted to Rs. 39,704 of which Rs. 4,897 was remitted against Rs. 39,826 realised and Rs. 5,111 remitted in the previous year. The gross revenue and working expenses of the canal during the year amounted to Rs. 40,289 and Rs. 52,831 respectively against Rs. 41,858 and Rs. 45,307 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 12,542 against Rs. 3,449 of the previous year.

Salbund weir. 372. This work was constructed on behalf of the Salbund irrigation society in the district of Bankura. No expenditure was incurred on works during the year. The irrigable area is 1,938·54 acres.

373. This weir was constructed in 1927-28. Besides some petty expenditure on this work a sum of Rs. 4,359 was spent up to 31st March 1932 for repairs to flood damage to the weir and the canal. **Amjore weir.**

Other irrigation schemes in Western Bengal.

374. The construction of the canal which was started in 1926-27 was in progress during the year and is nearing completion. The project has been designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land, mostly of paddy, in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. At present about 20,000 acres are annually irrigated by the Eden canal which takes its supply from the Damodar at Joojooty 7 miles to the west of Burdwan town. The absence of a weir across the river prevents the canal from being supplied with water at the most critical time for the rice crop in October. In order to extend irrigation and to provide an assured supply to the Eden canal, this project for a new canal with its intake about 25 miles to the west of Burdwan, has been undertaken. The canal has been aligned to pass through the Galsi thana which suffers periodically from scarcity and will pass along the north side of the Grand Trunk Road within about 4 miles of Burdwan. From this point a branch canal will supply water to the Eden canal and the area irrigated will be raised from 20,000 to 37,000 acres. On the west, north, and north-east of the town of Burdwan, a considerable length of branch and minor canals will be constructed from which 143,000 acres of land will be irrigated. Besides these an additional area of about 20,000 acres will be irrigated under season leases. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 19,33,030, and the total expenditure to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 81,16,088. It is expected that the canal will be partially opened during 1933-34. **Damodar canal project.**

Major Navigation works (Unproductive).

375. There was no capital expenditure on the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year was Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 71,685 and Rs. 34,709 respectively against Rs. 55,971 and Rs. 91,707 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 36,976 against a deficit of Rs. 35,736 in the previous year. **Hijili tidal canal.**

Minor Navigation works.

376. The length of the canal within the province of Bengal is 54½ miles. It is used for navigation only. The gross revenue **Orissa coast canal.**

and working expenses amounted to Rs. 28,206 and Rs. 19,297 respectively against Rs. 28,099 and Rs. 18,800 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 8,909 against Rs. 9,299 in the preceding year.

Gaighatta and Buxi khal.

377. The khal is a connecting channel between the rivers Rupnarayan and Damodar and is about 7½ miles in length. The khal has been leased out for toll traffic at Rs. 4,050 per annum for a period of three years.

Nadia rivers.

378. The total length of the channels of this group of rivers is 478½ miles. The rivers have been thrown open to free navigation from 1st September 1923. The maintenance charges during the year amounted to Rs. 62,185 against Rs. 49,929 during 1930-31. The following major works were in progress in the Nadia Rivers Division.

(i) Rebuilding the tail weir of the Gobra nala cut.

379. This work was started in April 1930 and was almost completed by the end of 1931. The total expenditure incurred up to the year 1931-32 was Rs. 31,789 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 32,034, and the expenditure during the year was Rs. 1,917.

(ii) Constructing a brick mattress at Serajganj.

380. This work was started in December 1929 and completed during the year under review. The total expenditure up to March 1932, was Rs. 2,26,458 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 2,61,758.

(iii) Restoring the protective work at Serajganj.

381. The work of reconstruction of the revetment from chainage 3,370 to chainage 4,000 which was partly washed away by the river, was started in March 1932. The total expenditure up to March 1932 was Rs. 11,740 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 25,000.

Bhagirathi river.

382. The river Bhagirathi from Dhulian on the Ganges to Plassey is 106 miles long. There were no great changes in the entrance channel from Dhulian to Biswanathpur, which is known as the Fracca channel. The Ganges has, however, advanced another 100 feet this year at the Kaliganj entrance. Bandalling work in the river Bhagirathi from Kaliganj to Jangipur was taken up in November 1931 and completed at a cost of Rs. 6,904 against the estimated amount of Rs. 9,254. The bandalling was done over the worst shoals and the period of training was from the 9th November 1931 to 1st January 1932. Bandalling in the middle Bhagirathi river was taken up in November 1931 to maintain country boat traffic from Berhampur to Azimganj throughout the year. In the Lower Bhagirathi river which extends from Plassey to Nadia only three shoals, Dewanganj, Matiary and Rukunpore, were trained this year.

Bhairab river. 383. This river is 65 miles in length from its entrance at Lalgolaghat to Mukhtearpur where it joins the Jalangi river. It has three entrances, Lalgolaghat, Asariada and Akriganj. No training work was done in this river, but country boat traffic was maintained throughout the year.

Jalangi river. 384. There was no change in the course of the river during the year.

Mathabhanga river. 385. No change has occurred in the course of the river. The present entrance as last year is at Dayrampore.

Discharge observations. 386. Discharge observations were taken at four stations, Jangipur and Berhampur on the Bhagirathi, Kalna on the Hooghly and Hanskhali on the Churni river throughout the year. The discharges of the tributaries of the Bhagirathi and the Hooghly were also observed during the flood season only and of the Bhairab-Jalangi at Akriganj for the whole year.

Gorai river. The Gorai was surveyed as usual and no remarkable change was observed.

Improvement of navigable channels—Maintenance and repairs.

Rajmahal—Goalundo section of the Ganges. 387. The conservancy operations in the Ganges river lying between Rajmahal and Goalundo were carried out this year by the India General Navigation and Railway Company, on a lump sum contract of Rs. 21,000 for one year from 1st April 1931. The result of the training was that there was no stoppage of steamer traffic during the dry weather and all steamers navigated this river without any difficulty. The floods in the Ganges were higher than those in the previous year, the highest reading at Rampur Boalia on the 24th August 1930 and 14th September 1931 having been 60·40 and 61·70 respectively. The total expenditure on the Ganges conservancy work was Rs. 22,833 against Rs. 23,090 of the previous year.

Mahananda river. 388. The training works of the Mahananda river in the districts of Rajshahi and Malda from Malda steamer ghat to Godagari were carried out this year by the India General Navigation and Railway Company on a lump sum contract of Rs. 7,000 per annum. The total expenditure was Rs. 7,408 against Rs. 7,000 of the previous year.

River floods and breaches. 389. There was no high flood of any considerable magnitude in this circle although there were in the rivers Ajoy, Damodar, Selye, Darkeswar, Rupnarayan, Cossye, Bhagirathi, Jalangi and the Mathabhanga, some moderate floods of short duration which did not damage the crops on the banks of the rivers.

Breaches and cuts.

390. In the Cossye Division 72 cuts were allowed during the year under report in the schedule D embankment. In the Damodar division 15 cross bunds were allowed in the bed of the rivers and khals and 5 cuts were made in schedule D embankments for irrigation of boro crops by diverting the river water into the fields. In the Nadia Rivers division four surreptitious cuts were made in the Bhagirathi embankment. The first three cuts were allowed to be kept open, while the fourth cut was closed by the villagers.

Surveys and Investigations.

391. The following investigations were carried out during the year under review:—

(*i*) Detailed survey of the Suvankar Danra project in the district of Bankura—expenditure during 1931-32 Rs. 88.

(*ii*) Survey of the Ajoy canal scheme—expenditure Rs. 726.

(*iii*) Survey required for the preparation of an estimate for a new regulator at Dashana in the districts of Hooghly and Burdwan—expenditure Rs. 144.

(*iv*) Survey and levelling the schedule D embankment in the Gadghat subdivision—expenditure Rs. 158.

(*v*) Survey of the alignment from Bhangaude khal to the Kana nadi in connection with the Rankini Doho project—expenditure Rs. 58.

(*vi*) Preliminary survey in connection with the proposal for constructing a channel between Shamsunderpur and Isofabad bil—expenditure Rs. 30.

(*vii*) Survey of Ghea from Kristachandrapur to two miles below Rohio—expenditure Rs. 68.

(*viii*) Preliminary investigation of Ghoya Danra scheme along the Barawasia—expenditure Rs. 55.

(*ix*) Gauge and discharge observations of important rivers and streams in the district of Bankura—expenditure Rs. 782.

(*x*) Gauge and discharge observations of important rivers in the district of Birbhum—expenditure Rs. 769.

(*xi*) Gauge and discharge observations of the Dolong river in the district of Midnapore—expenditure Rs. 122.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

Calcutta and Eastern canals.

392. The aggregate length of canals, canalised rivers and channels open to navigation is about 1,184 miles inclusive of the Sundarbans steamer route. There was no capital expenditure on original works on the canal during the year under review. The

total capital outlay to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 70,69,341. The gross receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 4,05,370 and Rs. 4,56,972 respectively against Rs. 4,07,476 and Rs 4,73,799 during 1930-31. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 51,602 against Rs. 66,323 in the previous year. The total expenditure under extensions and improvements during the year amounted to Rs. 1,26,956. The following were the principal items of work on which heavy expenditure was incurred:—

Name of work.	Expenditure during the year 1931-32.	Remarks.
	Rs.	
(*i*) Belliaghatta bridge ..	3,127	Completed.
(*ii*) Narkeldanga bridge ..	59,445	In progress.
(*iii*) Chitpur bridge	8,215	Do.
(*iv*) Maniktola bridge ..	4,020	Completed.
(*v*) Alipur bridge	47,160	In progress.
(*vi*) Ultadanga bridge	4,989	Do.
Total	1,26,956	

Bridges Nos. (*i*) to (*v*) are being constructed through the agency of the Calcutta Improvement Trust while bridge No. (*vi*) is being constructed by this department.

393. There was no capital expenditure on the route during the year under review. The cost of maintenance and repairs amounted to Rs. 1,12,394 during the year. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 58,101 and Rs. 1,80,610 respectively against Rs. 72,265 and Rs. 4,29,215 during the previous year. The result was a deficit of Rs. 1,22,509 against a deficit of Rs. 3,56,950 in the previous year. **Sundarbans steamer route.**

394. There was no alteration in the length of the route during the year. The total length of the route between the Madhumati and Arial Khan rivers including the lower Kumar is 38 miles. A sum of Rs. 12,947 was spent during the year on the construction of locks and sluices in the Madaripur bil route and the lower Kumar river, making the total cost up to the end of the year Rs. 7,40,432 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 7,50,000. The locks and sluices at Golabari, Bajitpur, Jalirpar, Sindia khal and Chowderer khal have been completed and were in operation. The lock and sluice at Mustafapur though completed could not be operated owing to damage to the structure by scour and were closed for repairs. The effects of the locks and sluices on the silting in the lower Kumar river cannot definitely be determined until all the locks and sluices are operated. The gross receipts **Madaripur bil route.**

and working expenses amounted to Rs. 2,35,926 and Rs. 2,55,808 respectively against Rs. 3,02,891 and Rs. 2,95,852 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 19,882 against Rs. 7,039 in the previous year.

Dredging works.

395. Dredging of the shoals in the lower Kumar river, of the Madhumati loop char in the Madhumati loop, and of shoals in the Attarabanka river and the Doagra channel was done during the year. The dredger "Ronaldshay" was engaged on reclamation work at Port Blair, Andamans, up to the midlle of November 1931. It arrived back in Calcutta in January 1932.

River training works.

396. Bandalling in the rivers Dhaleswari and Buriganga is undertaken every year to train shoals with the object of maintaining a navigable depth of water during the low water season and also for the purpose of ensuring a supply of good drinking water for the city of Dacca. The bandalling was entrusted to the Joint Steamer Companies in the year 1929-30 for three years on an annual subsidy of Rs. 17,500. There were heavy floods in the rivers during the year which brought in a large volume of silt. The low water level was also very low and hence the rivers were navigable to small steamers only during the dry season. The Baraitoli channel was navigable for a short distance only. The Lohajang river in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district was silt-cleared at the worst shoals and steamers could ply up to Tangail during the flood season.

Sanitary drainage works.

397. The Monikhali, the Madanpur-Veragachi and Magrahat basins were drained satisfactorily during the year. There was some trouble however with the drainage of the Arapanch basin owing to the collapse of a part of the right wing wall of the Arapanch sluice. The Monikhali drainage scheme was maintained at a cost of Rs. 1,993 but no expenditure was incurred on the Madanpur-Veragachi scheme. A sum of Rs. 29,145 was spent on maintaining the Magrahat basins and Rs. 2,437 on maintaining the Arapanch drainage scheme.

Agricultural works.

398. The remaining work on the Dutkhali sluice was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 7,410. The total expenditure on the canal to date is Rs. 45,261.

Survey and investigations.

The following surveys were carried out during the year:—

(*i*) Survey and investigation in connection with the construction of a sluice and dam at Noakhali—expenditure Rs. 917.

(*ii*) Survey of a channel from Bhorasango to Peshkerhat in the district of Chittagong—expenditure Rs. 237.

(*iii*) Preliminary survey and investigation for the improvement of the inner channel of the Burul sluice (completed).

CHAPTER X.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

399. The total revenue for the year 1931-32 from central heads amounted to Rs. 4,93,09,000 against the actuals of Rs. 5,97,56,000 of 1930-31, as shown in the statement below. The bulk of the fall in revenue, as compared with the last year's actuals, occurred under the heads "Income-tax" and "Ports and pilotage" and was due mainly to the general depression in trade, particularly jute. The fall in revenue in a lesser degree under the head "Salt" was due to a decrease in the consumption of imported salt. The absence of the abnormal receipts on account of the sale proceeds of Nos. 5 and 6, Government Place, Calcutta, and the large arrear rents realised for the buildings at No. 1, Council House Street, and the Central Publication Branch last year mainly account for the decline under the head "Civil Works." The payment of smaller refunds and the credit of Rs. 31,000 on account of lapsed General Provident Fund deposits up to the year 1928-29 contributed to the increase under the head "Miscellaneous." Receipts.

Statement of Receipts.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1930-31.	Actuals, 1931-32.
	Rs.	Rs.
II—Taxes on income	5,56,86	4,58,74
III—Salt	25	6
X—Payments from Indian States	68	68
XVI—Interest	10,31	10,48
XVII—Administration of justice	4	..
XX—Ports and pilotage	18,66	16,95
XXVI—Miscellaneous departments	1,00	84
XXVII—Currency	12	10
XXX—Civil works	7,81	2,86
XXXIII—Receipts in aid of superannuation	1,88	1,67
XXXV—Miscellaneous	—5	71
Total	5,97,56	4,93,09

400. The smaller expenditure of Rs. 1,14,77,000 in the year under report as compared with the actuals of 1930-31 which Expenditure.

amounted to Rs. 1,18,03,000 is explained by the savings effected as a result of the 10 per cent. reduction in the pay of all Government servants introduced as an emergent measure with effect from 31st December 1931, to the curtailment of expenditure on "Works" and "Repairs" and to economy and retrenchment. The saving would have been larger but for increased expenditure on Census Operations.

Statement of Expenditure.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1930-31.	Actuals, 1931-32.
	Rs.	Rs.
2—Taxes on income	11,32	11,19
3—Salt	2,22	2,21
15—Irrigation	25	..
19—Interest on ordinary debt	17,46	17,26
20—Interest on other obligations	20,82	19,49
22—General administration	20	20
23—Audit	9,21	8,75
24—Administration of justice	43	38
26—Police	1,79	97
27—Ports and pilotage	15,24	15,56
28—Ecclesiastical	1,79	1,83
29—Political	40	48
33—Public health	63	55
37—Miscellaneous departments	2,22	3,83
41—Civil works	11,17	7,63
44—Territorial and political pensions	6,40	6,49
45—Superannuation allowances and pensions ..	16,08	17,42
46—Stationery and printing	2	6
47—Miscellaneous	38	9
52—Extraordinary payments	..	14
61—Payment to retrenched personel	..	24
Total ..	1,18,03	1,14,77

Salt.

[Salt Administration Report, 1931-32.]

Salt credit system.

401. The Government of India decided to abolish the credit system for the payment of duty on salt with effect from 1st April

1932, but in order to minimise inconvenience to merchants the period of credit was reduced from 6 months to 3 months with effect from 1st October 1931, and instructions were issued to the effect that no fresh credits were to be opened after 31st March 1932. In consequence, the amount of duty outstanding for adjustment dropped from Rs. 87,01,659 to Rs. 53,11,050 during the year.

402. The total quantity of salt imported into Bengal was 13,509,118 maunds as compared with 17,392,088 maunds in the previous year, showing a decrease of 22·32 per cent. Of this the imports into Calcutta and Chittagong were 12,776,579 and 732,539 maunds respectively during the year, representing 94·57 and 5·43 per cent. of the total quantity imported, against 90·46 and 9·54 per cent. in the previous year. **Imports.**

403. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption from Calcutta and Chittagong during the year was 15,156,867 maunds against 16,197,569 maunds in the previous year. The average wholesale price per maund inclusive of duty was 3 annas 10 pies more than in the previous year. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 63 against Rs. 69 in the previous year, while that of Portsaid salt in Chittagong was Rs. 56 against Rs. 68. **Consumption and prices.**

Income-tax.

404. The year 1930-31, on the income of which assessments were made in the year under review, was one of the worst from the point of view of income-tax revenue. Jute, which contributes the major portion of revenue in Bengal, had a very bad year, the price of this commodity falling to the lowest point reached for many years with a resultant reduction in the profits of jute companies in Bengal to Rs. 2·65 crores from Rs. 6·26 of the preceding year. This again adversely affected incomes from other sources, e.g., banking, brokerage, dividends, managing agency, commission and even salaries. Piecegoods and tea also had a bad year and there has been a heavy fall of revenue from these sources, and but for the enhanced rates of taxes, the effect on the income-tax revenue would have been disastrous. The lowering of the taxable limit from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 1,000 and the imposition of a surcharge at 12½ per cent. of income-tax and super-tax introduced by the Indian Finance (Supplementary and Extending) Act, 1931, brought in an additional revenue of Rs. 3,33,126 and Rs. 47,94,138, respectively in 1931-32. **Review of the year.**

Assessed income.

405. The statement below shows the figure of assessed income of the year under report as compared with those of the previous years:—

	Rs.
Standard figure of assessed income for the year 1920-21 (revised up to March, 1932) ..	62,31,42,914
Assessed income in—	
1921-22	Not available.
1922-23	47,53,18,672
1923-24	49,21,45,843
1924-25	46,65,74,333
1925-26	50,63,56,689
1926-27	49,40,92,344
1927-28	45,84,67,020
1928-29	53,82,19,707
1929-30	55,65,11,258
1930-31	50,66,30,083
1931-32	37,32,58,653

As the assessed income of 1931-32 is less than that of 1920-21, the Local Government will derive no benefit from Devolution Rule 15.

Collection.

406. In the year under report, the collections including tax on income below Rs. 2,000 and above Rs. 1,000 and surcharge of 12½ per cent. on income-tax and super-tax were Rs. 2,81,26,055 in income-tax and Rs. 1,67,95,875 in super-tax as compared with Rs. 3,12,95,842 and Rs. 2,30,39,147 respectively in 1930-31. Other statistics will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bengal, to the Central Board of Revenue.

B.—Revenue and Finance other than Central—Provincial Finance.

407. The sanctioned estimates for the year 1931-32 provided for a total receipt of Rs. 12,25,51,000 exclusive of an estimated opening balance of Rs. 31,16,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 12,20,76,000, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 35,91,000 to be carried forward to 1932-33. The actual receipts and expenditure amounted to Rs. 11,44,07,000 and Rs. 11,70,96,000 respectively.

Receipts.

408. The year 1931-32 actually opened with a balance of Rs. 39,67,000 against the estimated opening balance of Rs. 31,16,000 as the actual revenue and expenditure in 1930-31 fell short of the revised estimates for that year by Rs. 8,76,000

and Rs. 17,27,000 respectively. The comparative "receipt" figures are shown below:—

	Estimated. Rs.	Actuals. Rs.
Opening balance	31,16,000	39,67,000
Receipts on revenue account ..	10,52,42,000	9,00,82,000
Receipts on capital account ..	1,73,09,000	2,43,25,000
Total ..	12,56,67,000	11,83,74,000

Against the original estimate of Rs. 10,52,42,000 on revenue account, the fall of Rs. 1,51,60,000 in receipts on revenue account occurred under the following heads, the difference being due to small increases under others:—

	Rs.
V—Land revenue	23,10,000
VI—Excise	51,00,000
VII—Stamps	63,05,000
VIII—Forests	8,33,000
IX—Registration	8,67,000
Total ..	1,54,15,000

This fall in revenue may be partly ascribed to the abnormal political situation which prevailed during the whole of the year under report, but mainly to the world trade depression. The decrease in the total revenue of the province would have been larger but for larger receipts under "XIII—Irrigation" due to smaller expenditure on working expenses as a measure of retrenchment and for larger recoveries than anticipated under the heads "Administration of justice" and "Police." Against the original estimated receipts of Rs. 1,73,09,000 on capital account, the actual receipts amounted to Rs. 2,43,25,000. This was mainly due to the necessity of having to borrow Rs. 1,88,11,000 to cover their revenue deficit which had originally been placed at Rs. 1,13,41,000 only.

409. Against the actual expenditure of Rs. 11,40,86,000 on revenue account in 1930-31 the budget estimate for 1931-32 was fixed at Rs. 11,50,64,000. The budget estimate allowed for growth in expenditure due to the incremental system of pay, the completion of schemes in progress, and certain new schemes involving an immediate expenditure of Rs. 32,950 recurring and Rs. 5,44,233 non-recurring with ultimate liabilities of Rs. 26,722 and Rs. 7,93,129 respectively. The provision for expenditure on new schemes was shared almost equally by the reserved and transferred sides of Government. Owing however to the special measures necessitated by the abnormal political situation and a short provision under the head "Superannuation allowance and

Expenditure.

pensions" indicated by the progress of actuals, supplementary grants amounting to Rs. 9,23,000 as shown below were voted by the Legislative Council during the year:—

					Rs.
26—Police	..	..	..	..	5,15,000
43—Famine relief		..	..	..	2,25,000
45—Superannuation		..	..	..	50,000
47—Miscellaneous		..	..	..	1,33,000
			Total	..	9,23,000

The total grant available for expenditure during the year on revenue account was therefore Rs. 11,59,87,000, whereas the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 10,98,17,000. Thus there was a saving of Rs. 61,70,000. Economies which Government were forced to effect in 1930-31 were carried forward into the year under report and, as soon as it was realised that the estimated revenue would fall short of expectations, Government not only decided to reduce the initial pay of all new appointments under their control but also reduced expenditure on travelling allowance, conveyance allowances, and contingencies and took steps to enforce still more rigorous economy by postponing all expenditure which could be deferred without serious administrative inconvenience. In conformity with the general policy of retrenchment adopted by the Government of India, a 10 per cent. reduction in the salaries of all Government servants was effected from the fourth quarter of the year. Grants to local bodies and private institutions were also reduced and the building programme and expenditure on repairs curtailed. The effect of these measures on the final result would have been greater but for the expenditure that had to be incurred under the heads "Jails", "Police", "Civil works" (buildings constructed for detention of detenus) and "Miscellaneous" to cope with terrorists and others and for assisting sufferers from floods and economic depression. In addition to the expenditure mentioned above, the estimate for 1931-32 provided for an expenditure of Rs. 70,12,000 outside the revenue account. To this was added a supplementary grant of Rs. 9,27,000 voted by the Legislative Council during the course of the year for payment of loans to cultivators suffering from floods and economic distress. The total amount available for expenditure on capital account was therefore Rs. 79,39,000. The actual expenditure however amounted to Rs. 72,79,000, the savings being mainly due to the expenditure during the year on the Bally bridge being less than originally anticipated and to the non-utilisation in full of the provision for loans to district boards for the improvement of rural water-supply. The estimated closing balance for 1931-32 was Rs. 35,91,000, but the year actually

closed with a balance of Rs. 12,78,000 only and a loan of Rs. 1,88,11,000 had to be taken.

410. The system of the control of expenditure introduced in 1925 with a view to checking its progress against sanctioned grants was continued during the year. **Control of expenditure.**

Statements of Provincial Receipts and Expenditure for 1931-32.

RECEIPTS.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Heads.	Actuals, 1930-31.	Budget, 1931-32.	Actuals, 1931-32.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
III—Salt	..	..	5,37
V—Land revenue	3,08,93	3,29,32	3,06,22
VI—Excise	1,80,16	2,07,00	1,56,00
VII—Stamps	3,12,94	3,34,14	2,71,09
VIII—Forest	23,12	25,27	16,94
IX—Registration	23,72	28,00	19,33
IXA—Scheduled taxes	13,00	14,00	13,04
XII—Subsidised companies ..	92	92	76
XIII—Irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which capital accounts are kept ..	−4,66	−6,75	−2,69
XIV—Irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which no capital accounts are kept ..	2,57	2,40	2,16
XVI—Interest	4,67	4,25	4,30
XVII—Administration of justice ..	13,34	12,29	13,07
XVIII—Jails and convict settlements ..	7,27	10,19	9,25
XIX—Police	11,60	11,89	13,86
XX—Ports and pilotage	90	96	75
XXI—Education	13,40	13,99	13,41
XXII—Medical	10,23	10,03	10,22
XXIII—Public health	1,57	1,26	1,54
XXIV—Agriculture	6,16	7,08	5,87
XXV—Industries	6,87	7,19	7,11
XXVI—Miscellaneous departments ..	19	20	19
XXX—Civil works	10,37	21,73	17,36

[Figures are in thousands]

Heads.	Actuals, 1930-31.	Budget, 1931-32.	Actuals, 1931-32.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
XXXII—Transfer from Famine Relief Fund	36	50	1,12
XXXIII—Receipts in aid of superannuation	1,57	1,42	1,48
XXXIV—Stationery and printing ..	5,16	5,13	4,46
XXXV—Miscellaneous	9,39	9,00	7,96
XL—Extraordinary receipts ..	2,17	1,00	58
Receipts in England	42	1	7
Total revenue receipts ..	9,66,34	10,52,42	9,00,82
Famine Relief Fund	83	70	78
Deposit account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	..	..	6
Depreciation fund for Government presses	1,20	1,46	1,06
Advances from Provincial Loans Fund, Government of India	50,20	1,32,41(a)	2,09,61(b)
Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt	7,23	7,76	7,76
Subvention from Central road development account	19,30	10,00	6,00
Suspense	6,45	7,38	6,29
Recoveries of loans and advances by the Government of Bengal	6,35	13,38	11,69
Total receipts on capital account ..	91,56	1,73,09	2,43,25
Total ..	10,57,90	12,25,51	11,44,07
Opening balance in Famine Relief Fund ..	12,65	12,83	39,67
Other opening balances	1,82,13	18,33	
Total opening balance ..	1,94,78	31,16	39,67
Grand Total ..	12,52,68	12,56,67	11,83,74

		Rs.
(a) Advance from the Provincial Loans Fund	..	19,00
Estimated overdraft	..	1,13,41
Total	..	1,32,41
(b) Advance from the Provincial Loans Fund	..	21,50
Overdraft	..	1,88,11
Total	..	2,09,61

EXPENDITURE.

[Figures are in thousands..]

Heads.	Actuals, 1930-31.	Budget, 1931-32.	Actuals 1931-32
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
5—Land revenue	45,37	43,92	41,32
6—Excise	21,80	20,79	19,55
7—Stamps	5,23	6,06	4,10
8—Forest	15,18	16,53	14,97
8A—Forest—Capital outlay charged to revenue	77	2,11	1,52
9—Registration	19,95	21,10	18,94
9A—Scheduled taxes	16	16	15
14—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept	17,38	17,95	18,23
15—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue	12,05	11,89	10,59
15 (1)—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from Famine Relief grants	1	..	..
16—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works	1,31	..	20
19—Interest on ordinary debt ..	—7,00	—3,98	—6,74
20—Interest on other obligations ..	..	5	9
21—Reduction or avoidance of debt ..	7,23	7,76	7,76
22—General administration	1,25,20	1,29,15	1,23,31
24—Administration of justice ..	1,06,20	1,07,46	1,01,67
25—Jails and convict settlements ..	44,38	38,22	36,89
26—Police	2,20,89	2,18,46	2,20,40
27—Ports and pilotage	5,13	5,27	4,25
30—Scientific departments	34	35	34
31—Education (reserved)	14,47	13,94	13,40
31—Education (transferred)	1,27,34	1,25,29	1,20,40
32—Medical	52,84	56,75	51,52
33—Public health	37,27	42,61	38,24
34—Agriculture	25,65	27,21	25,38
35—Industries	12,19	12,85	11,63
37—Miscellaneous departments ..	2,37	2,53	2,27
41—Civil works	1,01,51	99,82	88,44
43—Famine relief	35	50	2,33
45—Superannuation allowances and pensions	45,22	45,95	49,47
45A—Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary revenue ..	13,07	7,50	6,22
46—Stationery and printing	22,18	23,06	20,50
47—Miscellaneous	3,66	8,42	10,38
Expenditure in England	41,16	40,96	40,45
Total expenditure from ordinary revenue	11,40,86	11,50,64	10,98,17

52A—Forest—Capital outlay not charged to revenue in England ..	1	..	..
55—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works (not charged to revenue)—			
In India	17,36	19,64	19,20
In England	..	17	23
60—Civil Works not charged to revenue—			
In India	21,24	9,35	8,87
In England	2	5	..
60B—Commuted value of pensions (not charged to revenue) ..	..	..	..
Famine Relief Fund	36	50	1,12
Deposit account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ..	..	..	..
Depreciation fund for Government presses	1,25	67	32
Repayment to the Government of India of advances from Provincial Loans Fund	7,23	7,76	7,75
Subvention from central road development account	4,41	15,68	10,97
Suspense	6,48	6,26	6,34
Loans and advances by the Government of Bengal	13,79	10,04	17,99
Total expenditure on capital accounts ..	72,15	70,12	72,79
Total expenditure ..	12,13,01	12,20,76	11,70,96
Closing balance in Famine Relief Fund ..	13,12	13,03	12,78
Other closing balances	26,55	22,88	..
Total closing balance	39,67	35,91	12,78
Grand Total ..	12,52,68	12,56,67	11,83,74

Stamps.

[Annual statistics of the Stamps Department, for the year 1931-32.]

Revenue and charges.

411. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fee Acts amounted to Rs. 2,78,52,961 during the year, showing a decrease of Rs. 42,97,329 or 13·4 per cent. on those of 1930-31. The decrease occurred both under judicial and non-judicial stamps. The charges during the year were Rs. 11,49,736 against Rs. 13,78,546 in the previous year.

Judicial stamps.

412. The sale proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) fell from Rs. 2,23,17,632 in 1930-31 to Rs. 1,99,61,160 in 1931-32. The decrease was shared by all the divisions except one, Burdwan, which yielded a net increase of Rs. 1,330. Calcutta alone accounted for a decrease of Rs. 15,39,199, which was mainly due to the absence of the unusual receipts on account of probate

duties such as had occurred the year before, while the decline in almost all the districts was attributed to a large drop in the number and value of money suits owing to the economic depression.

413. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps fell from Rs. 90,06,961 in 1930-31 to Rs. 72,25,681, showing a decrease of Rs. 17,81,280. The decline in revenue was shared by all the divisions and was due to the economic depression. The most marked decrease occurred in Calcutta and was due to the depressed condition of trade, especially in jute, tea and coal. **Non-Judicial stamps.**

414. The number of licensed stamp vendors and the amount of discount allowed to them fell from 5,634 and Rs. 2,96,466 in 1930-31 to 5,367 and Rs. 2,62,234 respectively in 1931-32. **Arrangement for sale of stamp.**

415. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by civil courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 decreased from 1,572 in 1930-31 to 1,403 in 1931-32, and the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases from Rs. 14,788 to Rs. 14,081. The number of cases dealt with by revenue courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act also fell from 2,508 to 1,754, and the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases from Rs. 57,698 to Rs. 40,983. **Deficient duty.**

416. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 464 against 494 in the previous year. Of the 138 persons brought to trial 129 were convicted, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 506 and 490 respectively. The fines imposed and the amount of rewards paid to informers however rose from Rs. 5,026 and Rs. 2,999 to Rs. 6,048 and Rs. 3,499 respectively. **Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.**

417. Of the cases of valuation of estates for issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1931-32 including those pending at the beginning of the year, complete enquiries were made into 67·5 per cent. against 69·4 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion of the deficit duty to the amount originally realised was 24·3 per cent. against 65·9 per cent. in the previous year. **Working of the section 19-H of the Court-fees Act.**

Excise.

418. During the year licensing boards functioned in connection with the number and location of shops for the retail sale of exciseable articles and opium in all the districts of the Presidency excepting Darjeeling where the excise advisory committee was in force. They worked satisfactorily. **Excise licensing boards and advisory committees.**

Revenue.

419. The total excise revenue fell from Rs. 1,80,28,339 in 1930-31 to Rs. 1,56,82,184, i.e., 13 per cent., the decrease being under almost all the heads. The largest decrease amounting to Rs. 8,44,668 was under "Total receipts from country spirit" followed by Rs. 6,19,932 under "Total receipts from hemp drugs", Rs. 4,52,325 under total receipts from opium," Rs. 4,39,108 under "Duty on wines and spirits manufactured in India and classed as foreign liquors", Rs. 44,949 "Receipts from country fermented liquors (pachwai)". There was, however, an increase of Rs. 49,623 under the head "Duty on spirits used for other commercial, scientific or industrial purposes" and Rs. 32,933 under "Licence fees for sale of beer manufactured in India or elsewhere". The incidence of excise revenue, per head of population was 4 annas 11 pies against 6 annas 2 pies in the preceding year.

Country spirit.

420. The total number of licences for the retail sale of country spirit was 919 against 926 in the preceding year. In almost all the districts except Bankura, Murshidabad, Mymensingh, Tippera and Dinajpur in which small increases occurred there was fall in consumption. Noticeable decreases took place in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Malda, Darjeeling, Chittagong, 24-Parganas, Rajshahi, Hooghly and Jessore. It is reported that this all-round fall was due to prevailing economic distress caused by the world-wide trade depression.

Tari.

421. Licences for the retail sale of fermented tari were settled by auction in the tree-tax area as well as in other areas of the Presidency. The tree-tax system of taxation which remained in force in the districts of Calcutta, 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah contributed 51 per cent. of the total revenue from tari. The total number of retail tari licences fell from 488 to 484 and the total revenue from Rs. 7,96,967 to Rs. 7,88,745. The decrease is ascribed partly to the economic distress and partly to the reluctance of consumers to take out licences.

Pachwai.

422. The total number of pachwai licences issued was 59,185 against 54,614 in 1930-31. The revenue in licence fees from retail vend shops fell from Rs. 12,67,247 to Rs. 11,96,604. The decrease was marked in Burdwan, Midnapore, Darjeeling, Murshidabad and Hooghly districts. In all these districts the decrease in revenue was due to a fall in consumption owing to the economic condition of the consumers.

Foreign liquor.

423. The total number of licences issued for "Trade" and "Public" sale of potable foreign liquor was 1,665 against 1,533 in the preceding year. The total receipts from licence fees increased from Rs. 3,72,087 to Rs. 3,90,887.

424. The total number of licences issued for the retail sale of ganja was 1,211 against 1,206 in 1930-31. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 30,94,554 against Rs. 36,61,422 in the preceding year, the net decrease amounting to Rs. 5,66,868. The total quantity of ganja consumed was 1,013 maunds against 1,155 maunds in 1930-31. Consumption fell in all the districts except Bankura. The fall was due to the economic distress and the low price of agricultural products. Ganja.

425. The total quantity of bhang consumed amounted to 302 maunds against 334 maunds in the preceding year. The total revenue from licence fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,41,876 against Rs. 1,71,999 in 1930-31, showing a decrease of Rs. 30,123. Bhang.

426. The total number of licences issued for the retail sale of charas was 33 against 34 in 1930-31, and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 1,86,452 as compared with Rs. 2,09,363 in the preceding year. Charas.

427. The total quantity of opium consumed fell from 885 maunds to 804 maunds, and the total receipts amounted to Rs. 41,89,736 against Rs. 46,42,061 in 1930-31. The decrease in consumption was largely due to the general trade depression and economic distress of the consuming public. Opium.

428. Four hundred and sixty-eight licences were issued during the year to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine against four hundred and seventy in 1930-31. Ninety-five permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals and dispensaries not under Government supervision. Seventy-five permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests for illicit sale or possession of cocaine was 281 against 388 in the previous year. One thousand and twelve ounces were seized by the Customs officers, twenty-three ounces by the Excise staff and forty-eight ounces by the Police in Calcutta, Howrah and 24-Parganas. The total quantity seized in Bengal was 1,083 ounces as compared with 2,077 ounces in the previous year. Cocaine.

429. The total number of persons prosecuted and convicted on charges under the Excise and Opium laws was 9,312 and 8,218 respectively against 7,971 and 7,060 in the previous year. Excise offences.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1931-32.]

430. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force, the road and public works cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the Rate.

valuation of lands and immovable properties. The valuation or gross rental on which cesses are based amounted to Rs. 16,33,77,094 against the current land revenue demand of Rs. 3,03,22,331. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 18·56 per cent.

Demands and collections.

431. The total cess demand was Rs. 1,24,51,532. The current demand showed a net increase of Rs. 2,94,412 over that of the preceding year. The increase was mainly contributed by the districts of Burdwan, Dacca, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur and Bogra. In Burdwan the increase was due to the revision of assessment on the net profits of mines including royalty receipts under section 72 of the Cess Act, while in Dacca it was due to the new assessment of cesses on *hats* and fairs. In the rest of the districts the increase was due to revaluation operations. The percentage of total collections on current demand fell to 85·53 from 87·65 of the previous year. The outstanding balance increased by Rs. 12,83,471 over that of the previous year. The percentage of total collection on current demand exceeded the standard of 100 per cent. in the district of Murshidabad only. The percentage varied from 52·14 to 98·51 in the remaining districts of the province.

Working of the certificate procedure.

432. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of arrears of cesses was 52,472 against 47,241 in the preceding year. Including 25,132 certificates pending from the previous year, the total number of certificates for disposal amounted to 77,604, of which 41,672 were disposed of and 35,932 were left pending at the close of the year.

Valuation and revaluation.

433. General revaluation operations on a large scale were in progress in the districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad, Faridpur, Bakarganj and Chittagong. The revision of assessment of the coal mines in the districts of Burdwan and Birbhum and of certain gazari forests in Dacca and Mymensingh was made, as usual, under Chapter V of the Cess Act. Partial valuations and revaluations were also undertaken in the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore and Tippera.

CHAPTER XI.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RELIEF.

Public Health.

[Report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1931.]

General health conditions.

434. Calculated on the Census of 1931 the provincial birth rate for 1931 as compared with the previous year, showed an increase of 4.5 per cent., while the death rate decreased by 0.5 per cent., the former showing a quinquennial increase by 6.1 per cent. and the latter a decrease by 1.8 per cent. Thus, the birth rate showed an increase and the death rate was the lowest recorded since 1892. The rate of natural increase was 5.5 compared with 4.2 per mille in 1930. The birth rate in Bengal was the lowest on record compared with that of other provinces in India with the single exception of that of Burma and the death rate higher than that of Burma, Assam and North-West Frontier Province. Three districts, Jessore, Calcutta and Pabna, showed an excess of deaths over births. These three districts showed this peculiarity in the previous year as well but this year there was some improvement. The infant mortality rate, 174.0 per mille of births, was less than that of the previous two years, viz., 187.3 and 179.9 and was also lower than that of the quinquennial average of 184.0. The general death rate from cholera, small-pox, fever, dysentery and diarrhœa, respiratory diseases, injury and other causes is shown below compared with the figures for 1930:—

	1930.	1931.
Cholera	1·2	1·6
Small-pox	0·2	0·2
Fever	15·1	14·7
Dysentery and diarrhœa	·8	·9
Respiratory diseases	1·2	1·2
Injury	0·4	0·4
Other causes	3·4	3·3

Registration and verification of vital statistics.

435. Two hundred and ninety-six persons were prosecuted in the rural and in the urban areas for neglecting to report births and deaths; of these 208 ended in conviction. In rural areas the new system of registration under which the presidents of union boards in a majority of registering circles have been entrusted with the duties of registration of births and deaths is still working unsatisfactorily. This matter was discussed at the Divisional Commissioners' conference held in October 1930 and an experiment with an alternative system was started in the Birbhum

district. This is reported to have been working satisfactorily, inasmuch as the monthly returns of births and deaths are now being received in the Bengal Public Health Department more quickly and regularly from that district than from any other.

Epidemic diseases: cholera.

436. Cholera accounted for 79,073 deaths in 1931 against 54,963 in 1930 showing an increase of 24,110 deaths or 33·3 per cent. It caused 7·1 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 5·3 per cent. in 1930. The death rate from cholera was higher in every month during the latter half of the year compared with that of the previous year. As compared with the preceding decennium the death rate in 1931 was higher in June, September, October, November and December. After its usual rise in November 1930, the death rate fell in June 1931 and started rising again in October, November and December. It reached its minimum during the rainy season to rise again in October. Pabna, Dacca and Faridpur suffered most among the districts and Baduria, Satkhira, Narayanganj and Serajganj among the towns. The total number of inoculations performed was 1,832,817 against 1,021,541 in 1930. About 217,262 sources of water supply were disinfected in addition to a large number of infected latrines, houses, ghats and dobas. The pilgrims to Ganga Sagar, the Puri Rath-jatra and the Kumbh mela were inoculated and also the Haj pilgrims. Educative propaganda against cholera epidemic was carried out by means of lantern lectures and magic lantern demonstrations. Direct assistance was given by the departmental medical staff to local bodies and leaflets and posters were widely distributed.

Smallpox.

437. Smallpox claimed 9,207 deaths during the year 1931. The death rate and the mean of the previous five years were the same as in 1930, and also the percentage figures. During 1931 there was an increase in the total number of vaccinations as compared with the previous year. There has been a slight increase in the total number of vaccinations, but the province cannot be considered immune from smallpox epidemics till the proportion of vaccinations is raised from one-ninth of the total population to one-seventh.

In addition to supplying calf lymph the local Government spent Rs. 50,000 on free vaccination. Smallpox was responsible for 0·8 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 1·1 per cent. in 1930. From December 1930 the number of cases increased till the maximum was reached in March 1931. The highest mortality rate, 3·2 per 1,00,000, occurred in March and the lowest, 0·2, in October. Compared with that for the year 1930 and the average of the previous decade, the death rate was lower in every

month of the year 1931. In Calcutta the death rate from smallpox was less than in the previous year. Among the districts Howrah showed the highest death rate. The respective death rates in towns and rural areas were ·59 and ·15 against 1·01 and ·19 in 1930 showing a decrease of 41·6 and 21·1 per cent. in towns and in the rural areas respectively. Calcutta alone was responsible for 42·8 per cent. of the total deaths from smallpox. Of the total deaths from smallpox 4·1 per cent. occurred among infants below one year and 13·3 per cent. among children between 1 and 10 years of age.

438. Fevers caused 731,784 deaths against 705,066 in 1930. Of the total deaths from all causes fevers claimed 65·7 per cent. against 67·5 per cent. last year. The death rates of malaria and kala-azar were lower, while those of enteric and relapsing fevers increased by 4·2 and 10·0 per cent. respectively and for other fevers fell by 4·1 per cent. The death rate from measles remained unchanged. **Fevers.**

439. Malaria was responsible for 349,111 deaths with a death rate of 7·0 per mille in 1931 against 336,879 deaths and a death rate of 7·2 in 1929. The number of deaths thus increased by 12,232, although the rate shows a fall of 2·8 per cent. when compared with that of 1930. (This apparent anomaly is due to the fact that the census figures for 1931 have been used for the calculations for the year 1931: it was the census figures for 1921 which formed the basis of the calculation for 1930). It accounted for 47·7 per cent. of fever deaths and 31·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Fever indices when compared with those of the previous year show an increase in twenty-one districts and a reduction in the rest. The towns registered 2,990 deaths from malaria with a death rate of 0·85 per mille and the rural areas 346,121 deaths with a rate of 7·5. Compared with the previous year the death rate was reduced in the towns by 16·7 per cent. and in the rural areas by 2·6 per cent. Of the 118 towns 46 returned death rates above the provincial urban average for malaria (0·8); the most noticeable rates being those of Kotchandpur, Jessore district, 13·2; Kumarkhali, Nadia district, 13·1; Chakdah, Nadia district, 12·3; Dhulian, Murshidabad district, 12·2; and Birnagar, Nadia district, 10·7. In 1931 7,835·5 lb. of quinine were consumed as compared with 7,468·3 lb. in the previous year. Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Calcutta, Jessore, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Bogra, Dacca, Mymensingh and Faridpur in which the fever indices had risen showed increased consumption, while Bankura, Howrah, Murshidabad, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Noakhali and Tippera showed reductions. The average consumption per head of population **Malaria.**

was highest in Jessore. Experimental anti-malaria schemes were continued at Singaran Toposi, Banka Valley and Sailihat in the Duars.

Kala-azar.

440. The provincial death rate from kala-azar was ·20 per mille as against ·23 per mille in the last year. Compared with 1930 the death rate in all towns was reduced by 23·1 per cent. and in Calcutta by 17·2 per cent. The highest mortality from kala-azar, 1·0, was registered in Chandrakona municipality, Midnapore district. Of 118 towns 48 did not record any deaths from this cause. Kala-azar accounted for 1·39 per cent. of deaths from fever and ·92 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 1·5 and 1·04 per cent. respectively in the previous year. New cases numbering 101,151 were admitted for treatment at kala-azar centres and other medical institutions in the province against 110,017 in the previous year and 114,845 in 1929. The number of such admissions reached its maximum 188,944 in 1925; and has been gradually decreasing since then. This reduction was common to all districts except Murshidabad, Tippera, Malda, Khulna and Bogra where the increased number of admissions was appreciable. One hundred and eighty special kala-azar treatment centres worked in the various districts throughout the year and treated 34,895 cases. Government contributed Rs. 88,000 towards the cost of this work.

Enteric fever, measles, relapsing and other fevers.

441. The death rate for enteric fever in 1931 showed an increase of 4·2 per cent. when compared with the previous year and that for measles remained stationary. In the towns the death rate from enteric fever remained stationary while that of measles showed a decrease. Of fever deaths 1·7 per cent. and of the total provincial mortality 1·1 per cent. were due to enteric fever and ·4 per cent. of the former and ·3 per cent. of the latter were due to measles. The deaths reported from relapsing fever were 5,705 against 4,767 in 1930; but the figures are obviously wrong and the local sanitary authorities have been instructed to report such cases in future after making an accurate diagnosis. No death from this cause was reported to have occurred in Calcutta. Other fevers accounted for 351,207 deaths with a death rate of 7·0 per mille.

Plague.

442. Only one death from plague was reported from Calcutta during the year 1931.

Dysentery and diarrhœa.

443. Dysentery claimed 24,014 deaths and diarrhœa 18,750 making a total of 42,764 and giving a death rate of 0·86 per mille in 1931 against 39,367 deaths and a death rate of 0·84 in 1930. These two diseases were responsible for 3·84 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Since 1911 deaths from these two

causes have been gradually increasing. This is undoubtedly due to accurate reporting. Howrah and Calcutta as usual headed the list, while Malda was at the bottom. The highest increase occurred in the Noakhali district. The death rate in all towns was reduced in 1931 by 14·1 per cent. and in Calcutta by 16·6. In rural areas, however, it increased by 4·1 per cent. The highest death rate was returned by Ramjibanpur in the Midnapore district.

Respiratory diseases.

444. Respiratory diseases were responsible for 62,351 deaths in 1930 showing an increase of 3·3 per cent. over the previous year. Pneumonia and phthisis showed no change, while other subheads showed increases during the year. Of the total provincial mortality 5·60 per cent. was due to respiratory diseases. The total number of deaths from influenza in the province and the death rate increased by 1,543 and 28·6 per cent. respectively in 1931, other respiratory diseases by 2,249 and 6·0 per cent., phthisis by 662 and pneumonia by 1,815 while their percentages remained the same. Within the last 20 years the deaths reported from respiratory diseases have been steadily increasing until they are now over five times what they once were. The increase has been most marked in the rural areas in respect of all respiratory diseases in 1931. Influenza accounted for 4,714 deaths, pthisis 12,238, pneumonia 27,599 and other respiratory diseases 17,800. These figures, however, show only a small fraction of the deaths which actually occur every year from these diseases.

Injuries.

445. The total number of deaths from injuries was 20,718 against 19,397 showing an increase of 1,321 in 1931. Deaths from suicides increased by 127, wounds and accidents by 703, snake bite and attacks of wild animals by 265 and rabies by 226. Injuries accounted for 1·86 per cent. of the total deaths in the province and 1,592 of the deaths occurred in towns of which Calcutta alone claimed 704 and 19,126 in the rural areas. The number of deaths reported from all other causes was 167,414 of which 22,577 occurred in towns and 144,837 in the rural areas of the province.

General sanitation in the ports: (a) Calcutta.

446. The city and the port of Calcutta being free from plague there was no routine disinfection of the clothing and bedding of Asiatic and African crews and of the third class deck passengers of ships leaving for any port beyond British India. There were 539 admissions of the European seamen and 3 deaths. The admission rate of the European seamen to hospitals for all causes calculated on arrivals was 27·75 per mille and the death rate ·15 against ·36 in 1930. The total number of admissions among European seamen for venereal diseases during 1931 was 62—the same figure as reported in the previous year. Only one death

from drowning was registered at the shipping office, the death rate being ·05 per mille on arrivals against ·13 of the preceding year. Among the Asiatic seamen the police reported 68 deaths, 5 from cholera, 44 from fever and 19 from bowel complaints giving a death rate 3·7 per mille. One hundred and twenty Asiatic seamen and boatmen were admitted to the various hospitals out of which 10 died, 4 from cholera and 6 from other causes. Altogether four ships arrived in the port with infectious diseases on board during the year under review. No case of infectious disease was reported on undecked Indian sea-going craft.

(b) Port of Chittagong.

447. There was no outbreak of cholera or plague in any vessel lying in the port in 1931 except in three vessels in which there were three cases of measles and one case of smallpox. The patients were sent to hospital, the vessels were thoroughly disinfected and fumigated and the crews were vaccinated. The admission rate of European seamen to hospital for all causes calculated on the arrival figure was 7·71 per mille. There was no death in hospital. Nineteen Asiatic seamen were admitted to the Chittagong General Hospital, 2 suffering from malaria, 2 from measles, 2 from dysentery, one from diarrhœa, one from influenza, one from smallpox and 9 from other causes. There were 3 deaths.

Public health laboratories, Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

448. During 1931, 3,307 chemical, 5,067 bacteriological and 3,438 samples of food were examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory. Although the Bengal Food Adulteration Act has been extended to all the municipalities and districts, only four district boards, Rangpur, Khulna, Jessore and Rajshahi, had opened laboratories by the end of the year 1931. Arrangements have been made to open similar laboratories at Chittagong and Dacca. Samples of foodstuffs numbering 1,832 were received from 16 out of 18 district boards and 1,066 such samples were received from 37 out of 90 municipalities within the jurisdiction of this laboratory. Over 54 per cent. of the samples from district boards were found to be adulterated whereas in the case of the municipalities the adulteration was 30·9 per cent. Special enquiries were conducted in connection with bromine in the detection of adulteration of mustard oil and the food value of kasur, while a preliminary study was made of the vitamin value of food fats of Bengal. Enquiries were also carried out in the laboratory regarding the conductivity of water treated by catadyn and its relation to the bacterial purification of water and the constants of buffalo ghee.

Dacca Branch Public Health Laboratory.

Three hundred and eight samples of water were examined chemically and 888 bacteriologically in 1931. Three hundred and eight samples of effluents from the Dacca sewage works and 3,221 samples of foodstuffs were examined during the year. Out of the

latter 1,776 samples were received from district boards and 903 from municipalities. Out of these 70·0 per cent. and 37·0 per cent. respectively were found to be adulterated. Seven samples of alum, five of bleaching powder and one of perchloron received from the Dacca Central Jail were also examined in this laboratory.

Bengal Excise Laboratory.

449. Six thousand six hundred and forty-six samples received from bonded laboratories, the Excise department and the police were examined at the Bengal Excise Laboratory in 1931 against 7,263 in the previous year. Out of these samples 5,712 were of spirituous medical preparations, 14 of toilet preparations, 5 of pachwai, 3 of bakhar, 6 of brandy, beer, gin, rum and medicated wines, 23 of water for ascertaining its suitability for reduction purposes, 178 instruments for standardisation, 433 of court case samples (mostly liquor), 313 of distillery samples and 3 special samples of common salt.

Bengal Vaccine Laboratory.

450. The quantity of anti-cholera vaccine manufactured at the laboratory was 1,182,000 cubic centimetres of which 2,364,735 cubic centimetres were issued free and 30,670 cubic centimetres were supplied on payment.

Darjeeling Municipal Laboratory.

451. Sixty-four samples of water were examined chemically and 398 bacteriologically during the year. One hundred and twenty samples of sewage effluents and 667 samples of foodstuffs were also examined at the laboratory. Of the milk samples, 3·9 per cent., of the butter 20·8 per cent. and of the mustard oil, 11·8 were found adulterated. Besides this work, 88 samples of urine, 108 of blood, 6 of pus, 105 of stools, 73 of swabs, 12 of sputum and 7 of vaccine or a total of 399 were examined clinically during the year.

School hygiene.

452. During the year 1931, 21,085 boys and 817 girls were medically examined in 202 schools by 41 medical officers. The plans of 42 educational institutions were also examined and passed during the year. Only one book on hygiene was reviewed for the provincial text-book committee.

Dai training.

453. About 94 dai training classes were organised during the year and 1,074 dais trained. A total of 710 certificates and 928 bags were distributed among the trained dais.

Educational propaganda and publicity.

454. The publicity bureau of the Bengal Public Health Department delivered 437 lectures with and without the aid of lantern slides as compared with 426 in 1930. The continued and unabated demand for officers and materials of this branch from all over the province is conclusive evidence of the increasing popularity of the publicity section. Financial difficulties and trade

depression have not hindered the organising of health exhibitions. One hundred and sixty-five health welfare exhibitions were held in 1931 as compared with 130 in 1930 in which the publicity branch participated. One hundred and eighty-six cinema shows were also given by the publicity staff with health films of which that dealing with maternity and child welfare produced by the Publicity Superintendent was in great demand throughout India, reprints of it being bought by other provinces. A new film on tuberculosis was added to the stock of departmental films. A copious supply of leaflets, charts and posters was issued to the organisers of exhibitions. More than two and half lakhs of leaflets and pamphlets on various preventible diseases were published in Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and English and several lakhs of these were distributed. The Calcutta Health Welfare Week Committee again enlisted the aid of the publicity branch in organising their health exhibition in the Indian Museum building.

Fairs and festivals.

455. The only cases of infectious disease were reported from the Ganga Sagar mela and the Nangalbund fair in the district of Dacca which were held from the 13th to the 15th January 1931 and in the month of March respectively. The former was attended by 49,000 pilgrims, 16,900 of whom arrived by steamer and the rest by boat and road. There were 5 attacks of and one death from cholera at the mela ground. Inoculations numbering 441 were performed against cholera on the island. As usual an outdoor dispensary with observation sheds was opened at the mela. At Nangalbund about 100,000 pilgrims attended the mela. There were 4 attacks of and one death from cholera and two cases of diarrhœa were admitted into the cholera shed.

Septic tank latrines.

456. The plans of 6 septic tank latrines and of one ærobic plant were approved during 1931. One thousand eight hundred and twenty-six samples of effluents were analysed at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory, 624 bacteriologically and 1,202 chemically. Omitting the bacteriological samples collected from the Titagarh sewage works 191 samples out of 439 or 39 per cent. were found to be sterile. The quality of the effluent collected from the Titagarh sewage works was found to be satisfactory chemically but the bacteriological standard of purity had not yet been reached. A simplex activated sludge plant is being used and the three units have been working together to cope with the increased amount of sewage treated at the works. Mill managers were advised to carry on health propaganda work so as to inculcate some idea of simple rules of hygiene in the minds of mill workers. Accordingly in several mills cinema health films were exhibited, magic lantern lectures on sanitation arranged and suitable hygiene notices posted in latrines and urinals. In about 23 cases the mill

authorities were advised through the Chief Inspector of Factories to remove nuisances. The authorities of the King George's Docks and Bengal-Nagpur Railway head office were also advised direct to remove certain defects.

Prevention of food adulteration.

457. No further addition has been made to the number of notified articles of food as shown in the previous year's report. All the district boards have since authorised the public health circle sanitary officers to exercise the powers and perform the functions specified in sections 10 and 12 of the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919.

Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas.

458. Twenty-one health officers and 99 sanitary inspectors were employed in the municipalities of the province excluding Calcutta, the sanctioned scale being 21 health officers and 100 sanitary inspectors. The Santipur municipality was the only one which failed to maintain a sanitary inspector during the year. Out of the three sanctioned posts of sanitary inspectors the Bhatpara municipality maintained only two, one post remaining vacant throughout the year. The Gaibandha municipality continued to maintain a sanitary inspector although not yet required to do so under the Bengal Municipal Act. All the districts (Darjeeling excluded) were provided with fully qualified health officers. The Bengal rural public heath organisation scheme which was described fully in the last year's report is working satisfactorily in 25 districts. All the 575 health circles in the various districts excluding Darjeeling have been provided with trained sanitary inspectors and only in a few cases with assistant health officers.

Vaccination.

459. A total of 2,451,029 primary vaccinations and 3,091,571 revaccinations, making an aggregate of 5,542,600 operations, were performed during 1931-32 on 5,541,685 persons against 2,246,798 primary vaccinations and 3,034,649 revaccinations or an aggregate of 5,281,445 operations on 5,280,889 persons in the previous year showing an increase of 261,155 vaccinations during the year under review. Of the primary operations, 90·9 per cent. and of the revaccination 48·8 per cent. were found to be successful. These included 293,263 children under one year and 1,494,412 between one and six years of age. The ratio of successful vaccinations per mille of population was 74·6 for the year. On an average each vaccinator performed in rural areas 5,072,522 operations, 364,556 were done in municipalities and 105,486 at tea gardens,

factories, railways, steamers, dispensaries and jails against 4,631,888, 523,638 and 125,999 in the previous year showing in the case of the rural areas an increase of 440,634 and a decrease of 159,132 and 20,433 respectively in the other two areas during the year 1931-32. The number of vaccinations increased in all districts except in Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Jessore, Khulna, Darjeeling, Noakhali, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Asansol mining settlement. The number of deaths from smallpox decreased in all districts except Rajshahi, Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Tippera. In 47 municipalities out of 118 the number of vaccinations increased while in the rest it decreased. Of the infant population in the province 265·9 per mille were successfully vaccinated against 253·1 in the previous year. In the rural areas the proportion was 249·0 and in the municipalities 574·9 against 227·4 and 741·2 respectively in 1931-32. The total cost of vaccination amounted to Rs. 4,74,355-1-11 against Rs. 4,84,166-5-7 in the previous year. Rs. 175,231 including the annual recurring grant Rs. 50,000, was contributed towards this expenditure from the provincial funds. The average cost for each successful vaccination was annas 2 during the year under report. It varied from pies 7 in the Dacca and Tippera districts to annas 9 pies 11 in the Darjeeling district and from anna 1 pies 10 only in the Patuakhali municipality to Rs. 2-10-6 in the Nator municipality. A total of 5,718,130 grains of anti-smallpox lymph was manufactured at the Bengal Vaccine Depot during the year and 3,901,976 grains issued to the various local bodies. The average amount of pulp collected from each cow calf was 290·95 grains. The total proceeds of the sale of lymph amounted to Rs. 6,280 against Rs. 8,177-10 in the previous year, and the total expenditure to Rs. 56,186, including overhead charges for supervision, etc., against Rs. 59,315-2-10 in 1931-32.

Sanitation.

[Bengal Sanitary Board's Report and the Report of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, for the year 1931.]

Bengal Sanitary Board.

460. The number of official and non-official members of the Bengal Sanitary Board during the year 1931 was the same as in the previous year. The Board held three ordinary meetings, all in Calcutta. One sketch project for the surface drainage of the Kotrung municipality and two detailed projects of water supply for Narayanganj and Darjeeling were approved by the Board during the year. The drainage project and the Darjeeling water works project were recommended to the local Government

for approval. In the case of the Narayanganj water supply project the Board recommended that it should be finally sanctioned after verifying the legality of the proposal to change the existing house connections in the municipality from the old to the new mains. The Board considered inspection reports on the Comilla, Khulna and Nator water works made by the officers of the Public Health (Engineering) Department and took such action as they thought necessary. The Board further considered a note on the discussion of the question of resuscitating Bengal rivers which was held in the office of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division. The municipal inspection reports and the reports on the examination of the various water supplies in Bengal were discussed and necessary action taken by the Board.

461. Under the control and supervision of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, the construction of fifteen schemes was carried on during the year including ten water supply schemes, one each at Dacca, North-Chandpur, Narayanganj (East Bank), Bansbaria, Asansol, Midnapore, English Bazar, Barisal, Faridpur, and Kurseong and two sewerage schemes, one at Tittagarh and one at Bhatpara, and three drainage schemes, one for Dacca one for the Tangail Sub-Jail and one for the Dacca Mitford Hospital, and also the Bhatpara improvement scheme, Eleven sketch projects of water supply at Baranagar, Kamarhati, Navadwip, Kanchrapara, Bogra, Burdwan, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Khulna, Kurseong and Bankura and four detailed projects of water supply at Rajshahi, Pabna, Hooghly-Chinsura and Serampur were prepared during the year in addition to two sketch projects of sewerage at Naihati and Kamarhati. Sketch projects of drainage at Taki, Baidyabati and Kishoreganj were also prepared. The Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, prepared the plans and estimates of fifteen water supply schemes including two estimates for tube wells in addition to the performance of several works of a miscellaneous nature at the request of the local authorities. The chief event of the year was the opening of the Asansol water works which supply water under the new system of decentralised storage as designed by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department. Water is made to flow into small storage tanks placed on the roofs of houses or at the road side. The flow into the storage tank is regulated so that the householder receives the daily quantity of water to which he is entitled according to the water rate he pays. The new system has the unique advantage of preventing waste of filtered water without the assistance of meters. The total capital expenditure on water works and sewerge works during the year was Rs. 6,43,402 and Rs. 6,15,483 respectively.

Sanitary engineering.

Medical Relief.

[Triennial Report on the Working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal, 1929-31.]

CALCUTTA HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Number of institutions.

462. During the triennium 2 new institutions came into existence, raising the number of dispensaries to 44 as against 42 in the previous triennium. In the indoor hospitals the total number of beds increased from 3,350 to 3,500, the increase being chiefly due to the addition of 52 beds in the Sree Vishudhananda Saraswati Marwari Hospital and of 49 beds in the Chittaranjan Hospital. The newly opened Manicktola Maternity Home provided 12 beds. On the other hand there was a decrease in the number of beds by 16, viz., 2 in the Medical College Hospitals, 6 in the Campbell Hospital and 8 in the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital.

Attendance and admission.

463. The total number of indoor patients treated in the Calcutta hospitals was 51,842, 52,625 and 55,063 respectively during the three years. The increase is attributable to the progressive increase in the number of beds. The death rate in the hospitals on the whole showed a progressive decrease this being 11·09, 10·76 and 16·71 respectively in 1929, 1930 and 1931 as compared with 12·34, 12·23 and 11·33 respectively in the previous triennium. The total number of outpatients treated showed an increase of 350,269 over the previous triennium—the Medical College Hospitals having treated the largest number of outpatients.

Nursing.

464. The problem of nursing continues to be as acute as ever. The nursing staffs at the Medical College and the Presidency General Hospitals were seriously depleted on account of financial stress. The result was that the work of the already overworked nurses was greatly increased but it may be stated to the credit of the nurses that in spite of the increased strain of the work, they discharged their duties satisfactorily. A proposal for the training and employment of male nurses in the Campbell Hospital was sanctioned but could not be given effect to for paucity of funds and difficulty in getting suitable candidates. In response to the public desire to train Indian girls as nurses, some candidates were recruited in 1930 in the Medical College Hospitals and their training was continued with satisfactory results.

Finance.

465. The total receipts of classes I, III and IV institutions amounted to Rs. 98,37,251 during the triennium as against a

total income of Rs. 97,49,306 during the preceding three years. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 55,59,966 or 56·52 per cent. against 61·33 per cent. in 1926-28, and of this sum of Rs. 52,32,896 were spent on the State institutions. Subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 5,79,589 against Rs. 4,52,598 during the previous triennium. The municipal contributions amounted to Rs. 1,157,530 or 11·76 per cent. of the total income against 7·82 per cent. during the last triennium. The total cost of maintenance of the Calcutta hospitals, excluding investments, amounted to Rs. 94,04,502 during the period as compared with Rs. 92,53,047 in the previous triennium, showing a total increase of Rs. 1,51,455 though the expenditure was subjected to strict economy.

District Hospitals and Dispensaries.

466. During the triennium 120 new dispensaries were opened and 34 closed and there was a net increase of 86. Number of institutions.

467. The total number of beds in the district hospitals was 5,751 or 198 more than in the previous year; of these 4,342 beds were available for men and 1,409 beds for women. Besides these permanent institutions, there were a number of temporary dispensaries which rendered medical relief in the rural areas of several districts. Medical aid was also given to rural people assembled in hats, melas and fairs in several districts. Number of beds.

468. Little improvement was made in the nursing arrangements existing in the district hospitals and, as before, the nursing except in certain sadar hospitals and mission institutions was left to the relatives of patients with the help of ward coolies under the supervision of compounders and dressers. This condition of affairs is very regrettable but until an adequate number of better class Bengali women come forward for training, little can be done; as this difficulty is even more fundamental than the financial difficulty which has been accentuated by the general economic depression. Public opinion is changing towards social recognition of nursing as a worthy profession for Indian girls and this may help to ameliorate the situation. Nursing.

469. Altogether 26,003,466 patients were treated in the area outside Calcutta during the three years as compared with 23,775,238 during the preceding triennium and the number of indoor patients treated was 238,946 against a total of 226,597 during the previous triennium, the Dacca Mitford Hospital treating the largest number of inpatients as before. The total number of outpatients was Attendance.

24,899,278, the corresponding figure for the previous triennium being 23,548,641.

Disease.

470. As in the previous triennium, malaria accounted for the largest number of patients treated, viz., 7,196,318 against 6,167,877 during the previous triennium. The Public Health Department continued to supply quinine and cinchona febrifuge to the mufassal dispensaries, while quinine was sold to the public through the post offices by the Jail Department. The number of patients treated for kala-azar was 179,202 as compared with 246,981 during the previous period, showing a decrease of 67,779. Of other diseases, tuberculosis of the lungs accounted for 34,233 patients against 24,428 during the previous triennium. The figures for the individual years indicate a gradual annual increase in attendance and admission for this disease.

Finance.

471. The actual receipts of Classes I, II and IV institutions amounted to Rs. 25,27,076, Rs. 24,13,585 and Rs. 24,25,479 respectively during the three years making a total of Rs. 73,66,140 against a total of Rs. 69,90,859 during the preceding triennium, showing an increase of Rs. 3,75,281 and the total expenditure was Rs. 70,69,970 during the last three years against a total of Rs. 66,58,623 during the previous triennium. Among other sources of income, local funds and municipal contributions together amounted to 61·09 per cent. of the income, subscriptions to 11·84 per cent. and Government contribution 15·74 per cent.

The Poisons Act.

472. Three thousand two hundred and fifty-nine licences were current during the year throughout the Presidency (excluding Calcutta) as against 3,678 in the previous year, a decrease of 419 licences. In Calcutta 591 licences were renewed and 91 fresh licences were issued making a total of 682 against 723 licences current in the preceding year, a decrease of 41 licences. During the year there were 15 prosecutions under the Act of which 3 were in Calcutta and the remainder in the mufassal. In the latter cases 6 ended in conviction, while in Calcutta 2 ended in conviction. There were 5 cases of cattle poisoning, viz., 2 in 24-Parganas and 3 in Tippera. In the former case 5 persons were concerned of whom 4 were acquitted or discharged and one convicted. In Tippera two cases ended in conviction and one was still pending.

Emigration.

[Report on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, for the year ending 30th June, 1932.]

Inland emigration.

473. There was a further falling off in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts during the year under review since recruitment was curtailed owing to the general trade depression. The total number of emigrants recruited in Bengal was 97 as against 132 in the previous year. Of these 80 came from Birbhum and the rest from Midnapore. The total number of recruits from Bengal and other provinces embarking at Goalundo was 1,522, including those recruited in the Bombay Presidency outside the Act, as compared with 7,706 in the previous year. The number of garden sardars employed during the year was 60 (including 11 sardarnis) as against 100 and 263 in the two previous years. All worked under the control of licensed local agents who were 14 in number. The rest houses for emigrants at Asansol, Kharagpur, Naihati and Goalundo maintained by the Tea Districts Labour Association were frequently inspected and their condition was found to be in all respects satisfactory. Of the 58,328 emigrants who halted at Naihati 11,008 went to the Dooars *via* Lalmonirhat and the rest, with the exceptions of those mentioned below went to Assam *via* Amingaon or Goalundo. One emigrant died of chronic malaria at Naihati. Out of the total number of emigrants who arrived from the different recruiting districts in and outside the Presidency of Bengal two deserted, one from Kharagpur and the other from Naihati. There was no desertion or death among the emigrants during their journey from Goalundo to their final destinations as against ten desertions during the previous year. In connection with the transport of labour to Assam the receipts increased from Rs. 650 to Rs. 700 and the expenditure decreased from Rs. 8,886-8 to Rs. 7,544-6, as compared with the previous year.

[Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, VII of 1922, and the rules framed thereunder, for the year ending 31st December 1931.]

Foreign emigration.

474. There was no emigration of skilled or unskilled labour from the Presidency of Bengal to countries overseas during the year under review.

Repatriates to India.

475. During the year a total number of 1,357 repatriates, including one born on the voyage, embarked from the colonies of Trinidad, Fiji, Natal and Mauritius to return to India as against 1,767 in the previous year. Of this number 9 died on the voyage, as against 45 deaths during the previous year, and 1,348 disembarked. Of the 9 deaths which occurred among the returning

emigrants 7 took place on board the SS. "Ganges" from Trinidad and 2 on board the SS. "Sirdhana" from Mauritius. The percentage of deaths during the year decreased to ·66 from 2·54 per cent. in the previous year. The cause of the deaths among the returning emigrants is generally ascribed to their very poor constitution due to old age or infirmity which made it hard for them to bear the sudden and varied change of climate after leaving the colonies. The general health of the returning emigrants during the voyage was, however, good and no infectious disease occurred amongst them. Among the repatriates there were 18 lepers who came from Trinidad as against 1 leper from Fiji last year.

CHAPTER XII.—EDUCATION.

General System of Public Instruction.

476. During the year under review the number of institutions recognised by the Education Department increased by 1,400 with an increase of 69,604 pupils. Although the number of unrecognised institutions fell from 1,633 to 1,630, the pupils reading in them increased from 62,096 to 63,164. **Educational institutions.**

The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to Rs. 422 lakhs against Rs. 439 lakhs in the preceding year. The following comparative statement shows the rise and fall of expenditure under the different heads:—

Year.	Provincial revenues.	District boards.	Municipal funds.	Fees.	Other private sources.
	Lakhs.				
1930-31 ..	154·03	16·25	14·07	184·60	70·34
1931-32 ..	144·46	16·48	15·04	180·02	66·84

477. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hasan Suhrawardy, KT., O.B.E., M.D., was Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University throughout the year. An important event of the year was the conclusion of the negotiations between Government and the University on the subject of the financial assistance to be given to the University in view of its Post Graduate activities. A Reorganisation Committee had been appointed by the University to consider the future progress of the Post Graduate Department, as the existing financial settlement with Government was to come to an end on 31st May 1930. The Committee's recommendations were adopted by the Senate with certain modifications in 1930; their report formed the basis of the discussions with Government and, as a result of prolonged examination and conferences between representatives of the two parties, the amount necessary to enable the University to carry out the most important parts of the reorganisation proposals was determined. Accordingly it was decided to make a grant of Rs. 3,60,000 to the Calcutta University in 1932-33 and, although it will not be possible to give effect to the progressive scale of grants which have been calculated until financial conditions improve, the University will now be in a better position to **University and collegiate education.**

balance their budget and will be relieved of the anxiety which the uncertainty of their financial prospects involved. At Dacca Professor G. H. Langley, M.A., I.E.S., continued to be Vice-Chancellor. He was on leave from July to December 1931, and Dr. W. A. Jenkins of the Indian Educational Service then officiated in his place. In the Calcutta University there was a slight increase in the number of University students from 1,087 in 1930-31 to 1,144 in 1931-32, while in the Dacca University the number fell from 748 to 719.

During the year there were 49 Arts colleges (viz., 45 for men and 4 for women) against 48 (44 for men and 4 for women) in the previous year. Of the 49 colleges, 12 were under Government management, 21 were aided and 16 unaided. Though there was a slight increase in the total number of students on the rolls of these colleges, i.e., 19,744 as against 18,189 in 1930-31, the expenditure on their upkeep fell from Rs. 36,87,942 to Rs. 35,39,603, of which Rs. 14,00,733 was met from provincial revenues, Rs. 18,06,877 from fees and Rs. 3,31,993 from other sources. The economic depression made the financial position of colleges in Bengal extremely precarious and most of them found it difficult to balance their budgets even with Government grants.

Secondary education.

478. During the year under review there was an increase of 7,311 in the number of pupils in secondary schools and of 59 in the number of schools. The average annual cost of educating a pupil in a secondary school was Rs. 32 and of maintaining a school Rs. 4,750-8 against Rs. 33-8 and Rs. 4,895-9 in 1930-31. There was a tendency to convert middle English schools into high schools and as a result many middle English schools which had been reasonably good were converted into high schools of very doubtful efficiency.

Primary education.

479. There were 43,718 primary schools for Indian boys and 1,682,275 pupils reading in them. The percentage of boys under instruction in primary schools to the total number of boys of school-going age was 40·8. The area served by one primary school ranged between 1·25 and 2·4 square miles. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted to Rs. 66,95,818, of which Rs. 22,03,933 came from provincial revenues, Rs. 7,22,935 from district board funds, Rs. 6,88,680 from municipal funds, Rs. 24,17,305 from fees and Rs. 6,62,965 from other sources. The receipts from fees and other sources had been Rs. 27,04,156 and Rs. 7,55,886 respectively in 1929-30, and Rs. 25,13,647 and Rs. 6,66,100 respectively in 1930-31. The gradual decrease in these receipts was due to the prevailing economic distress. Of the total number of boys, 45·2 per cent. were Hindus and 53·7 per

cent. Muhammadans. Only 8·2 per cent., however, of the Moslem boys were in the upper primary stage of instruction and as large a proportion as 91·8 per cent. were in the infant classes. Of the Hindu boys 83·8 per cent. were in the lower primary stage and 16·2 per cent. in the upper primary stage. The number of candidates who attended the Primary Final Examination in 1931 was 13,956, of whom 8,884 were successful. The total number of teachers in primary schools was 65,435, the average number of pupils to a teacher being 25·7.

During the year the panchayati union scheme for the establishment of primary schools did not make any headway for want of funds. A sum of Rs. 1,38,076 was sanctioned for the maintenance of the schools established under the scheme since 1918-19. Only one primary school involving a recurring expenditure of Rs. 695 per annum was established under Mr. Biss' scheme. On the 31st March 1932, the total number of panchayati union schools for boys, including board primary schools, stood at 3,816 and that of the Biss' schools at 252. There were 477 primary schools in Calcutta on the 31st March 1932 of which 229 were free and maintained by the Calcutta Corporation. On the 15th January 1931 the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930, received the assent of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General.

Training of male teachers.

480. The two training colleges for secondary school teachers maintained by Government at Calcutta and Dacca had 144 students on the rolls on 31st March 1932, as compared with 137 students on the corresponding date of the previous year. Most of the students admitted to both colleges were teachers of aided schools and young men anxious to take up teaching as a profession. Muhammadan students are recruited to the extent of at least one-third of the total enrolment. The L.T. class at the Calcutta Training College has been abolished. One hundred and twenty candidates passed the B.T. examination and 4 (including private candidates) the L.T. examination in 1931-32.

First grade training or normal schools.

481 On the 31st March 1932 there were 5 normal or first grade training schools in Bengal, which were attended by 428 pupils as compared with 438 pupils on the corresponding date of the previous year. The total expenditure incurred in the upkeep of these schools was Rs. 1,22,651 to which provincial revenues contributed Rs. 1,22,607. The schools passed 138 students as compared with 159 students in the previous year. These schools remained unaffected by the wave of political unrest.

Guru and muallim training schools.

482. The guru and muallim training schools which numbered 86 had a total enrolment of 2,153. Of these schools 81 were managed by Government, one by the Corporation of Calcutta and

the rest by missionary societies. In 1931-32, 1,538 gurus passed. The total cost for the maintenance of these schools was Rs. 3,43,103 of which Rs. 3,24,279 was contributed from provincial revenues.

Training of women teachers.

483. The scheme for the establishment of a women's training college at Calcutta under departmental control is still awaiting provision of funds. Women teachers of secondary schools are now trained at the training departments attached to the Diocesan College and the Loreto House, Calcutta. During the year under review the Diocesan Training class which has discontinued L.T. teaching passed 12 B.T. candidates and the Loreto Training class which has added a B.T. section, passed 8 B.T. candidates and 7 L.T. candidates. The number of training schools and classes having facilities for training women teachers employed in primary schools and the lower classes of secondary schools remained unchanged at 10, viz., 3 directly managed by Government and the rest under the management of Christian and Brahmo missions as in the previous year. There were 234 pupils in these schools as against 240 pupils in the previous year.

Professional and technical education: Bengal Engineering College.

484. On the 31st March 1932, the Bengal Engineering College had 307 pupils on its roll against 298 students in the previous year. Thirty-two and 45 students passed the B.E. and I.E. examinations respectively. Eleven obtained diplomas in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and 7 passed the examination for Associateship in Mechanical Engineering during the year. The annual cost per pupil amounted to Rs. 1,647 of which Rs. 1,402 was borne by Government. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 1,293 and Rs. 1,068.

Ahsanulla School of Engineering.

485. On the 31st March 1932, the Ahsanulla School of Engineering, Dacca, had a total enrolment of 493 pupils against 476 in the previous year. The school passed 97 students in the Overseer examination during the year against 63 in the previous year. The cost of maintaining the school amounted in 1931-32 to Rs. 1,25,376 of which Rs. 87,354 was met from provincial revenues. The annual cost of educating each pupil in the institution amounted to Rs. 254 of which Rs. 177 was borne by Government.

Commercial schools: Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

486. There were altogether 24 commercial schools in the province on the 31st March 1932, against 28 in the previous year. The Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, had 365 students on the rolls against 315 in 1930-31. The Institute passed 34 students in the final commercial course examination against 26 in the previous year. In the special commercial course examination 138 students passed against 182. The upkeep of the institution cost Rs. 71,690 against Rs. 74,972 in the previous

year. Of the total a sum of Rs. 46,824 was met from provincial revenues against Rs. 50,931 in the previous year. The cost per pupil amounted to Rs. 196 of which Rs. 128 was borne by Government.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

487. The Government School of Art, Calcutta had 237 students on the 31st March 1932, an increase of 21 over the previous year. The total expenditure of the school was Rs. 44,880 of which Rs. 33,400 was met from provincial revenues.

Other Schools of Art.

488. Besides the Government School of Art, Calcutta, which is managed by Government, there were 4 other art schools in the Presidency with 282 pupils on their rolls. The total expenditure on these schools was Rs. 37,096 against Rs. 35,665 in the previous year. Of this Rs. 15,120 was paid from provincial revenues against Rs. 15,280 in the previous year.

Education of Indian girls and women.

489. The number of recognised schools of all grades and types for Indian girls increased during the year under review from 17,481 to 17,530 and the number of pupils attending them from 446,288 to 454,589. The number of arts colleges for women in the Presidency remained at four. The number of pupils attending them rose from 342 to 366. One hundred and eighty-three girls passed the I.A. and I.Sc. while 88 secured the Bachelor's degree against 78 and 36 respectively in the previous year. Ten women passed the M.A. examination of the University during the year under review. The number of high schools for Indian girls rose from 34 to 36. The number of girls reading in high schools also increased from 9,846 to 10,508. At the Matriculation examination of 1932, 394 passed against 332 in the previous year. Classes in music continued to be held in the Bethune College under the auspices of the Sangit Sangha and one of the hostels has embarked on a course of lessons in folk dancing. Lectures outside the curriculum were delivered on various subjects in the Diocesan College. A number of free primary schools for girls including 83 managed by the Calcutta Corporation has been opened recently in the province, chiefly in towns. They have rapidly won popularity and 11,813 girls are now being taught in them. The Nari Sikha Samity and the society for the improvement of backward classes and the missionary societies continued to do good work in connection with the expansion of primary education. The Bengal Women's Education League has also done some propaganda in the cause of popularising girls' education by publishing coloured posters which are in great demand. Two sets of lantern slides have also been made—one set of which has been used in the district of Bakarganj.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

490. The number of institutions for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians on the 31st March 1932, was 69 against 68 in the previous year. Of these 69 institutions 4 are for special instruction and 65 for general education. The 65 general schools comprised 24 secondary schools, 19 higher grade, 21 primary and one ungraded. Government directly controlled 3 institutions, viz., Victoria Boys' School and Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong, for general education, and the Dow Hill Training College for the training of school mistresses. The remaining schools are managed by railway authorities and various religious denominations. The total number of pupils (boys and girls) in European schools was 11,586 against 11,623 in the previous year. Indians are now admitted into these European schools in greater numbers. The proportion of European and non-European scholars in schools for Europeans is 3·7 to 1. The total expenditure upon the education of European and Anglo-Indian children during the year under review amounted to Rs. 36,73,251 as compared with Rs. 39,90,887 in the previous year. The total sum of money expended upon scholarships during the year 1931-32 was Rs. 21,824 as compared with Rs. 29,139 in the previous year. There is no separate college in Bengal for the training of European male teachers. The Government assist men who wish to proceed to the Chelmsford Training College at Ghora Gali (Punjab) for training as elementary school teachers.

The Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, is the only institution in the province for training European and Anglo-Indian female teachers. An increasing tendency is evident among European and Anglo-Indian students to take advantage of university education through the facilities which the intermediate classes attached to European schools offer and several institutions have college classes affiliated to the Calcutta University. Special classes continued to be held for the training of girl probationers in sick nursing in the school hospital at Loreto Convent, Entally, and St. Andrews' Colonial Homes, Kalimpong. In the latter school selected girls also receive training as children's nurses. The Children's House, Kurseong, continued to accommodate physically and mentally defective European children.

Muhammadan education.

491. The number of Moslem pupils attending all types of educational institutions for Indians rose from 1,391,462 to 1,437,655. The proportion of Moslem pupils to the total number of students under instruction was 51·6 per cent. as against 51·5 in the preceding year, whereas the percentage of the Mussalmans to the total population of Bengal is 54·8. The proportion of

Moslem scholars however becomes progressively less in the higher classes until it falls to 13·3 and 12·9 in the arts and professional colleges respectively. In the high and middle stages of instruction, the proportion of Moslems was 18;7 and 24·7, respectively. In the primary stage the proportion was 54·5, and in other special schools 71·5 per cent. of the total number of students enrolled. The vast majority do not even complete the primary stage of education, which alone can secure permanent literacy. During the year under review, the number of Islamic intermediate colleges remained unchanged at 3, 2 of which were maintained and one aided by Government. The total number of pupils reading in these colleges was 168. Of the 89 students who appeared at the Islamic intermediate examination held in March 1932, 62 were successful. At the close of the year there were 743 madrassas in the province with 67,864 pupils on their rolls. Of the total number of madrassas, 686 were of the reformed type and the remainder of the old type. Four hundred and twenty-one candidates sat for the high madrassa examination of whom 159 or 38 per cent. passed; 3,100 candidates were sent up for the junior madrassa examination; of whom 2,925 sat for the examination and 2,190 passed. One thousand and thirteen candidates appeared at the central madrassa examination conducted by the Calcutta madrassa and of them 632 were successful. The number of maktabs or primary schools for Moslems rose from 24,733 to 25,831. The total number of pupils reading in these institutions was 859,533, of whom 614,717 were boys and 244,816 girls. The number of Moslem girls reading in various grades of recognised institutions rose from 281,572 to 303,830; of these 8 were in arts and professional colleges, 92 in the high stage, 225 in the middle stage, 302,746 in the primary stage, and 759 read in special schools. The number of girls in junior madrassas is increasing.

Oriental education.

492. The Universities both at Calcutta and Dacca provide for instruction and facilities for research in higher Sanskrit and Islamic studies and Sanskrit and Islamic studies are pursued in tols and madrassas. The Calcutta Sanskrit Association continues to control Sanskrit studies all over the province. The East Bengal Saraswat Samaj conducts its own examinations in the East Bengal districts along with those of the Calcutta Sanskrit Association. The number of affiliated tols recorded in 1931-32 was 761 with 11,728 pupils. There are a few unrecognised institutions for Sanskrit studies. Facilities for studies in Islamic culture are afforded in madrassas the old type specially. There is a board for conducting the Central Madrassa examination. In the examination of 1931-32, 632 students passed out of 1,013 candidates who took the examination.

Education of the sons of the chiefs and nobles.

493. The number of Nizamat boys under instruction in the year was 24 against 26 in the previous year. The upkeep of the hostel attached to the Nawab Bahadur's Institution in Murshidabad reserved for these boys cost Government Rs. 5,274 as compared with Rs. 6,053 in 1930-31.

Education of the children of the backward classes.

494. During the year the backward communities made satisfactory progress in education in all directions. On the 31st March 1932, 375,554 boys and 64,500 girls belonging to these communities were under instruction in various types of schools and colleges. The corresponding figures on the same date of the previous year were 371,252 boys and 62,434 girls. The society for the improvement of backward classes maintained 113 schools and received a grant of Rs. 9,250 in that year. The total amount available for assisting the societies and boards in advancing education amongst the backward classes was Rs. 1,27,000 in 1931-32.

Education of criminal classes.

495. The industrial institution maintained by the Salvation Army near Saidpur in the district of Rangpur for the children of Karwal Nats, a criminal tribe, was attended by 69 persons in 1931-32. The Reformatory and Industrial schools, Alipore, had on their roll 215 boys on the 31st March 1932 against 249 on the same date of the previous year. The total number of boys released from these institutions was 76. The upkeep of these institutions during the year cost Rs. 46,167, the corresponding figure for the previous year being Rs. 47,190. The Borstal school at Bankura had 277 inmates on the 31st March 1932. Fifty boys were released on license in 1931 from this institution.

Education of defectives.

496. There were five deaf and dumb schools and one blind school in the province during the year. The Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School had 199 pupils on its roll. The total expenditure incurred for the deaf and dumb schools in Bengal was Rs. 46,566, of which Government contributed Rs. 13,302. The Blind School at Behala had 64 boys and 14 girls on its rolls. The Children's House at Kurseong had on its roll 22 children. The total expenditure for the upkeep of this institution was Rs. 5,329 in 1931-32.

Tea garden schools.

497. There were 171 tea garden schools in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts during the year against 165 schools in the previous year. The enrolment in these institutions was 3,496 on the 31st March 1932 against 2,703 in the previous year. The total cost of these schools was Rs. 24,259 towards which public funds contributed Rs. 10,490. The corresponding figures in the previous year were Rs. 22,940 and Rs. 8,167 respectively.

CHAPTER XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

[*See* Report on the Administration of Bengal for 1921-22, pages 298-300.]

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library and the Working of Act XXV of 1867.

498. The total number of publications registered during the year was 4,607, of which 3,294 were books and 1,313 periodicals. Of the former, 3,143 were original publications against 3,758 in 1930 and 151 republications and translations against 145. The number of educational books fell from 1,756 in the previous year to 1,406, while that of non-educational books from 2,147 to 1,888.

The press.

499. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, English and vernacular, printed or published in the Presidency during the year under review was 704 against 663 of the previous year. With the exception of 17 the nature of the edition of which was unknown, this number included 273 newspapers and 414 periodicals, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 253 newspapers and 394 periodicals respectively. Of the total number of publications, 171 were in English, 363 in Bengali and the remainder in other languages. One hundred and sixty-nine newspapers and periodicals were started and 209 ceased to exist during the year.

Proscriptions and prosecutions.

500. During the year under review there were 24 prosecutions under sections 124A and 153A, Indian Penal Code, as against 31 in the previous year. Forty-nine warnings were issued as against 51 in the preceding year; of these 10 were under Ordinance II and 39 under Ordinance X of 1930. Action was taken under the Press Ordinance by demanding security from 4 papers and presses as against 38 in the previous year. In no case was security forfeited. There were 106 cases of proscription under section 99A of the Criminal Procedure Code, as amended by the third schedule of the Press Law Repeal and Amendment Act, 1922 (Act XIV of 1922), of which 18 were books, 40 pamphlets and the rest leaflets and other publications.

General tone of the press.

501. The general tone of the press remained the same as in previous years, hostile criticism of Government's motives and measures forming the main stock-in-trade of the nationalist writer. The Indian press continued with few exceptions to exhibit, directly or indirectly, its approbation of and admiration for terrorist murders; but there was a definite improvement of tone,

in the case of at any rate the more responsible papers, during the latter part of the year. The most noticeable feature of the year was, however, the propaganda supposedly directed towards the economic and political awakening of the masses, some papers showing definite signs of having been infected with Bolshevism.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

502. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year 1931-32, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 11 Chaplains of the Church of England, 17 Clergymen of the additional clergy or other society, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, the most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Ferdinand Perier S. J. and 5 Clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church.

Hedjaz Pilgrims.

503. During the year under review one ship, the "SS. Rizwani," sailed from Calcutta for the Hedjaz with 385 pilgrims on the 28th of February 1932 with a clean bill of health. As there had been no improvement in the economic conditions, there was very little advance over last year's figures. Other factors also contributed to this result. One was that adequate statutory control over the Muallims had not yet been secured; secondly, the Shipping Company did not publish the date of sailing as early as they were required to do; and, thirdly, the ship sailed earlier than the date that was thought suitable, with the result that a large number of pilgrims who subsequently arrived with the hope of embarking at this port, were advised to go to Bombay for embarkation. Certain legislative measures designed to give effect to some of the more important of the recommendations of the Hadj Inquiry Committee are in progress and effect is being given to the other recommendations by executive orders as far as possible.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1931.]

Analytical cases.

504. During the year under review 8,201 articles were examined in the department as against 14,366 articles in the previous year, which means a decrease of 6,165 articles. The figures for 1930 were abnormally high owing to the large number of samples of excisable articles and explosives examined during that year. The number of analyses of excisable drugs carried out was 1,783 against 6,922 in 1930, 2,044 in 1929 and 1,867 in 1928. In the General Analytical Department 2,673 examinations were made

against 8,755 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 6,082 articles. Spectroscopic research work was carried out under the Indian Research Fund Association into the presence of an infinitesimal amount of elements in human organs and some important foodstuffs and into the quantity of manganese in some common Indian foodstuffs.

Medico-legal cases.

505. During the year 2,168 medico-legal cases were referred to the department against 2,269 in 1930. The total number of medico-legal articles examined in the year was 5,528 against 5,611 in 1930, showing a decrease of 83 articles. Seven hundred and twenty-nine human viscera were examined against 766 in 1930, and 142 human tissues against 123 in 1930.

Stain cases.

506. The total number of stain cases received for examination was 3,152 against 3,098 in 1930. The table below gives the number of cases as well as the number of articles in stain cases for the last five years:—

			Cases.	Articles.
1927	..	..	921	2,361
1928	..	..	975	2,667
1929	..	..	1,059	2,867
1930	..	..	1,083	3,098
1931	..	..	1,072	3,152

The figures show that the number of stain cases is steadily increasing.

Veterinary Department.

[Annual reports of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year 1931-32.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

507. At the beginning of the session 187 students were on the rolls in the three classes. One hundred and sixty-nine prolonged their studies throughout the session against 141 in the preceding year. Ninety-eight were admitted into class A as freshmen. Fifty-six students were from Bengal against 50 in the previous year. The rest included students from Assam, the United Provinces, Madras, Iraq, Penang, Ceylon, Port Blair and elsewhere. The results of the annual examinations were satisfactory. Two courses of the Sanitary Inspectors' Training Class were held during the year and one soldier from Fort William, Calcutta, attended the vocational course for 8 months. Twenty-three outsiders attended the riding class.

College hospital.

508. Three thousand three hundred and seventy patients were treated and 410 operations performed against 3,201 patients and 338 operations in the preceding year.

Civil Veterinary Department.

509. During the year there was an increase in the mortality of animals from contagious diseases, the total number of deaths being 15,297 against 13,009 in the preceding year. Rinderpest alone accounted for 71 per cent. of the total mortality reported from bovine diseases, its toll being 10,373 animals against 9,345 in the preceding year. The number of deaths from hæmorrhagic septicæmia was 3,009 against 2,035 in the preceding year. There were 517 deaths from anthrax against 147 in the preceding year.

During the year 133,039 animals were inoculated in 600 outbreaks against 89,088 in 455 outbreaks. The death roll among inoculated animals was only 0·6 per cent. of the total. Four hundred and seventy-one animals were inoculated against rinderpest by the serum simultaneous method. During the year the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the mufassal treated 127,347 patients against 136,957 patients in the preceding year; while the number of cases treated at hospitals and dispensaries rose from 76,722 to 78,455.

Dispensaries.

510. During the year no new hospital or dispensary was opened. But it is under the contemplation of some district boards, such as Noakhali, Tippera, Bakarganj and Faridpur, to construct new veterinary dispensaries and hospitals.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1931-32.]

511. During the year the number of visitors fell from 979,604 in 1930-31 to 928,501 and the gate money receipts from Rs. 66,083 to Rs. 62,141. A successful experiment was made to recoup loss of gate receipts during the Fancy Fair days by keeping the Garden, excluding the Fancy Fair, open to visitors at the ordinary charge of one anna. The number of one-anna visitors was 15,984 whilst those visiting the Fair numbered 6,071. Notwithstanding the fall in the entrance receipts owing to economic depression, the financial condition of the Garden was on the whole satisfactory. The total receipts were Rs. 1,16,999 against Rs. 1,23,290 in 1930-31. The Garden again sustained a heavy loss in the death from verminous colic and enteritis of the female Indian rhinoceros of which the mate died in the previous year from arsenical poisoning. But for the generous gift of a very fine young male rhinoceros by Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon the Garden would have remained without a specimen of this important animal. Substantial alterations were made in the rhinoceros enclosure with a view to improving the conditions under which this animal is kept. Other interesting additions to the collection included two pigmy hippopotami, a capybara, two toucanets, and two white-winged wood ducks.

Administration of the Cinematograph Act.

512. During the year under review, the Bengal Board of Censors held 22 meetings. Seven hundred and eighteen films, representing 3,283,423 feet, were certified by the Board during the period, of which 184 were Indian, 209 British, 313 American and 12 from other countries. Certificates were refused for 3 films and excisions so as to eliminate objectionable portions were made in 36 films before they were certified. Indigenous films are showing signs of improvement both in technique and photography, and there are indications of increased development of synchronised pictures.

Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Report of the Electrical Advisor, Bengal, for 1931.]

513. During the year under report three new licences were granted under section 3(*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, viz., (1) the Rishra-Konnagar and Kotrung Electric Licence, 1931, (2) the Comilla Electric Licence, 1931, and (3) the Serajganj Electric Licence, 1931. The applications of previous years for Jalpaiguri, Khulna, Darjeeling and the Himalaya and North Bengal Electric Licences were under consideration. Fresh applications were received for the grant of licences for the supply of electric energy to Rajshahi, Bankura, Asansol, Naihati, Midnapore and Krishnagar which shows that the demand for electricity in the province is increasing rapidly. None of the existing licences was revoked. The application for a licence for Asansol from Mr. Clements was allowed to lapse by the applicant. The supply of electricity under the Lillooah Electric Licence, 1930, commenced during the year under report. The compulsory works under the Rishra-Konnagar and Kotrung Electric Licence, 1930, had progressed very favourably at the end of the year; while the work on the tunnel under the Hooghly between the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation's Southern Station and the Botanical Gardens was practically completed at the close of the year. No progress was made by the licensee of the Pabna Electric Licence, 1928, the work being at a standstill for want of finance. The progress made in bringing the Berhampore Electric Licence into effect was unsatisfactory, partly on account of difficulties in negotiations concerning land for the generating station buildings. The supply of energy to the public by the Mymensingh Bank, Commerce and Industry, Limited, was as satisfactory as could be expected under the prevailing conditions of unsatisfactory and inefficient management. Proposals to reorganise the Company with a view to improving the supply to the public were under

consideration throughout the year and although several avenues were explored, no settlement acceptable to Government was arrived at. Sanction to the supply of electric energy under section 28(*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, was granted to:—(1) Gouripore Electric Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to the Electric Welding and Manufacturing Company (India), Limited, at Naihati. (Sanction to remain in force up to 15th July 1934.) (2) Dishergarh Power Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to the Central Begonia Colliery in Burdwan district, owned by Messrs. S. N. Ghose and Company, up to 28th July 1937. (3) Dishergarh Power Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to Narsamuda Distillery of Messrs. Carew and Company, Limited. (Sanction to remain in force up to 28th July 1937.) (4) Dishergarh Power Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to the East Indian Railway Administration for use at Asansol for a period of five years or until a bulk supply licence is granted by Government whichever is earlier. (Sanction, dated the 27th July 1931.) (5) Dishergarh Power Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to Hariram Agarwalla for his flour mill in Barakar Bazar, Burdwan district. (Sanction to remain in force up to the 28th July 1937.) The question of levying fees under the Indian Electricity Act, for inspection work, was taken up during the year but no decision had been reached, at the close of the year. There were 116 accidents during the year against 74 in 1930, of which 7 were fatal. In the majority of cases of fatal accidents and in other cases where breaches of the Indian Electricity Act and Rules were discovered, those responsible were prosecuted and in all cases convictions with fines or warnings resulted.

Auxiliary Force and Indian Territorial Force.

514. There are in the Province thirteen units of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces which consist of all branches of the service. The forces are reported to possess a high state of efficiency and to have an excellent esprit-de-corps. Members of the Auxiliary Force have at times been employed to guard armouries in certain places and units of the Force or parts thereof have at times been held in readiness to deal with situations arising out of terrorist activities and similar disorders. Each unit has its annual camp for periods varying from 4 to 14 days where all are able to meet and where sports and musketry competitions are very well supported. Though most members have to sacrifice time and money to join and attend regularly there is no lack of volunteers from all walks of life. At present it is not possible to expand the Auxiliary Force for financial and other reasons.

INDEX.

B. G. Press—1233-34—321C—425.